Book Reviews

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.sfasu.edu/ethj
Part of the United States History Commons
Tell us how this article helped you.

Recommended Citation
Available at: https://scholarworks.sfasu.edu/ethj/vol16/iss1/11

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by SFA ScholarWorks. It has been accepted for inclusion in East Texas Historical Journal by an authorized editor of SFA ScholarWorks. For more information, please contact cdsscholarworks@sfasu.edu.

At West Point on a warm May day in 1886 graduating Cadet Captain John Joseph Pershing listened as General John Gibbon, five years from retirement, addressed the class. Both men were Civil War and Indian war heroes. Previously that academic year Pershing had marched the Corps of Cadets to the funeral train for a final salute to General U.S. Grant. In the Southwest the Apache wars were ending. An age was passing. Ahead lay an era of colonialism, world power and world conflict. Though the young Missourian could not know it, he would be far more a part of the new era than the old. Pershing and that new era are subjects of a recent major biography by the eminent and widely published scholar, Frank Vandiver, who gives us a work of consummate skill and a virtuoso display of the historian's art.

During Pershing's first decade as a young lieutenant of cavalry, he would find action rare, routine constant, opportunity for military glory or career advancement slight. But Pershing maintained his keen sense of duty, passion for order and efficiency, and a mind which observed and took lesson even from the bleakness of routine. He took every opportunity to further his career and advance his reputation within the circumscribed world of the army. Pershing was a model officer; when opportunities of a new age appeared he would be ready.

Slowly, over the next thirty years, his knowledge and stature grew. He learned to command his men, win their respect, if not their love, and make better soldiers of them. His contacts with Sioux scouts, college students in Nebraska, black troopers of the Tenth Cavalry, volunteer troops, Filipino constabulary, Moros in Mindanao and Japanese in Manchuria led Pershing to believe that soldierly qualities were universal. Effective planning and efficient and able command and training were the keys to successful military operations. These observations indelibly stamped both his character and his methods.

There were other lessons. Pershing observed and evaluated the new technology—machine guns, motor transport, airplanes—and adjudged them of potential military use at a time many officers held them of little or no value. Not a patient man by nature, he learned patience, at least to a degree, through disciplined routine, through the frustration of long time in grade and through the self-control necessary in a diplomatically restrained military action in Mexico. These lessons, arduously and sometimes painfully learned, gradually transformed the young second-lieutenant of cavalry of 1886 to the Iron Commander of 1917-1918.

It was predictable that by 1917 Pershing would stress planning, training, organization and offense. His effectiveness in these areas together with his ability to judge and use the talents of such men as Robert Bullard, Hunter Liggett, Charles Summerall, Fox Conner, George Marshall and George Patton accounts in large measure for the impressive performance of the Americans in France.

If the World War was the zenith of Pershing's career, it was not its end. As Chief of Staff in the early 1920s he worked for a strong and expandable military and attempted to advance good officers to higher rank and responsibility. Much of his work was ignored, but those officers who met with his critical approval remained to lead another generation of American soldiers. Pershing used his influence, even after retirement, to urge the brilliant Marshall into the strengthened post of Chief of Staff and in so doing did the nation inestimable service.

Pershing's career was also marked by controversy, and although they were not numerous, they were deep and intense. His promotion from captain to brigadier-
general in 1906, aided by his father-in-law, Wyoming Senator Francis E. Warren, brought controversy that threatened even Pershing's private life and reputation. His successful demands for a separate American sector during the First World War brought condescension and rancor from the British and French. The battle between Pershing and wartime Chief of Staff, Peyton C. March, in which the A.E.F. commander maintained his independence of command, brought bitterness and a publishing war that lasted for a generation after the event. But, in the end, it is Pershing who stands as the key figure of American victory in 1918.

This long-awaited biography adds a new perspective to Pershing. It changes the two dimensional historical figure, whose stern countenance stares out at us from old photographs, into a living, breathing human with strengths and weaknesses, loves and hates. We meet a young bachelor who loves lively company and good friends; a man of charm, and even, at times, courtliness. We find Pershing a diligent suitor, a loving husband and devoted father. Later he is the tragic grief stricken victim of an unimaginable horror, the sudden death of his wife and daughters in a house fire. Here too is an admirer of women, many of whom reciprocated with a full measure of admiration and intimacy: a sutler's daughter, delightful far eastern beauties, his beloved Frankie whom he married, Nina Patton, George's sister, and the painter Micheline Resco, who shared his life in France. But if he is human, the old photographs are true to Pershing the soldier: a stern, disciplined, courageous and devoted officer, first and last.

The research and source material incorporated into the work are impressive; nothing seems to have escaped Professor Vandiver. Public and private papers, memoirs, diaries, personal interviews, and appropriate secondary material are gleaned and skillfully woven into a powerful and dramatic work. The language, style and literary skill of the author demands attention and inspired admiration. It is a superb biography and a great adventure story. The biography of Pershing has been done.

Carl L. Davis
Stephen F. Austin State University


History is the story of strong tribes rolling over weaker ones—Jews over Canaanites, Romans over Gauls, Saxons over Celts, and Anglos over Indians. This struggle for territory and dominance will go on as long as there are animals to struggle, and to view these episodes in history with a cultivated guilt and Wounded-Knee sentimentality is mushy romanticism and is intellectually self defeating. Those Indians that the Anglos rolled over in their relentless movements to the west had in earlier times just as relentlessly rolled over other Indians. So, it is refreshing to read The Coushatta People, an account of an Indian tribe that suffered all the vicissitudes that other red men suffered, but to read a history that is told, certainly not heartlessly, but with historical objectivity.

Bobby Johnson, the author of The Coushatta People, is a good writer. He has a classically clean style that says what he wants to say with the least chance of misunderstanding. And he is able to view the Coushattas's hundred years of wandering in the wilderness with the calm analytical eye of a practiced historian. The Coushatta People is one book in the Indian Tribal Series Publications, a series of forty monographs on Indian tribes of North America.

The story of the Coushattas hundred-year hegira begins in Alabama in 1793, when they left the Creek Confederation and headed west just ahead of increasing Anglo intrusion and the resultant Creek Wars. The particular group of Coushattas that Johnson tells about wandered all the way to East Texas, only to find themselves still under invasion by Anglos. In a last effort they returned to one of their former campgrounds in
Louisiana, where they settled in the general area of Elton and finally centered their settlement north of Elton on Bayou Blue.

The Coushatta story since their return to south Louisiana around 1850 has been about the same as the story for all reservation Indians. They were isolated geographically and socially from the American mainstream and lived on the margin of survival. They and many vestiges of their culture survived segregation and missionaries and in 1953 they were cut loose from all federal support. The politics behind the move was not explained in the book, but the incident does point out the reservation dilemma: whether to segregate and protect the Indian behind the borders of a reservation or toss him out to sink or swim.

The Coushattas nearly sank after termination of federal aid in 1953, but helped by the general prosperity of the nation they were able to survive and acquire some land and begin some small craft businesses. Ironically, after they began to get on their feet, the government again recognized their particular status, and in 1973 they were once more qualified for governmental assistance.

The reservation dilemma of the Coushatta Indians is still unsolved, but the Coushattas are still on their own ground. They are getting into tourism and are selling their crafts. The young are drifting off to be integrated into normal society, for which they will have to sell some cultural identity, but it is hoped that the strong genes and cultural qualities that helped them survive through the hard times of the nineteenth century will help them survive in the twentieth century social melting pot.

Francis Edward Abernethy
Stephen F. Austin State University


For hundreds of years Indians left their imprint on history with mysterious marks on rocks. Most whites thought these to be hunting stories or merely random drawings. However, LaVan Martineau believes the sketches, markings, and drawings were part of an ancient writing system derived from sign language. The author speculated that pictography was a forerunner of Chinese and Egyptian hieroglyphics. During seventeen years of study, the author gradually learned to decipher these messages, for he believed that reading the aged rocks might be a new approach to solving the age-old mystery of civilization's origination.

Raised by Indians, Martineau became interested in deciphering rock-writing in 1956. Using the principles of cryptanalysis, he unlocked the meaning of various symbols etched on the rocks. He collected hundreds of sketches and photographs of rock-writing in all parts of the United States, Canada, and Mexico; he consulted all publications he could find on this topic; and he gained valuable assistance from his Indian friends.

In this book Martineau describes his findings and states how he came to understand the rock-writing. He tells his methods of research and translates various examples of rock-writing for the reader. doing this task by leading the reader through translations with a step-by-step explanation using numbered drawings and photographs of actual rock-writing. To illustrate the historical value of reading rocks for an Indian interpretation, Martineau deciphered rock-writing accounts of the Navajo Campaign of Kit Carson in 1863-1864 and Major John Powell's Colorado River Expedition in 1869-1870.

This book contains a plethora of photographs, sketches, and charts which describe, illustrate, and explain the author's findings and conclusions. Martineau has taken an intriguing subject and presented evidence to substantiate his belief that rock-writing was
an ancient method of communication. Thereby, he has constructed a strong, well-written argument that the rocks truly do speak.

Timothy A. Zwink
Oklahoma State University


Howard R. Lamar's book, *The Trader on the American Frontier: Myth's Victim,* was originally an essay presented in April, 1976, at a Texas A&M University Bicentennial Symposium. Emphasis is placed on the myth surrounding the frontier trader, much like the cowboy. The author states that the frontier trader has been stereotyped - whether in the form of mountain man, trading post owner, or merchant. The frontier trader has been seen either through romantic eyes as someone out for adventure or through dehumanizing eyes as a savage who was not able to get along in the civilized world. Information is provided that shows neither of these myths can explain the frontier trader. According to Lamar, the frontier trader provided the first true means of communication between the Indians and the white man. This link of communication, the author hints, was destroyed when the frontier trader was replaced by farmers and merchants.

It is evident that the book was originally an essay due to the lack of transitions between the sections of the book. However, what disorganization exists is overshadowed by the interesting story told and the many amusing anecdotes presented. The book is divided into sections on the frontier trader, mountain man, the cowboy, and the merchant trader who have all been criticized for the way they conducted business. However, the author quickly demonstrates that these men were just following practices which had existed for centuries and used by British, French, as well as Spanish traders.

This book provides a good general source on the frontier trader for the frontier buff. The footnotes bring out many excellent sources and demonstrates how well-researched the book is. The historian is warned that it is time the frontier trader's attitudes are researched carefully and that the frontier trader no longer be stereotyped as he has been.

Vernon Cannamore
Nacogdoches, Texas

*Aspects of the American West.* By Joe B. Frantz. College Station (Texas A&M University Press), 1976. p. 82. $5.00.

Years of research, teaching, and thinking ought to bring a scholar to a point of conviction—a moment of synthesis, if you will—at which he isolates the essence of his field and relates it to contemporary concerns. The three essays comprising *Aspects of the American West* finely exemplify this ideal product of the historian's craft and achieve relevance in a most constructive sense of that frequently misused term.

"Yellowstone National Park: Genesis of an Urban Solution" summarizes the events which led to establishment of the first national park and the subsequent development of the national park system. From that point of departure, Frantz, while not disdaining the traditional, Congressionally defined function of the National Park Service to preserve unique portions of pristine America, calls for an additional orientation of the park system toward the need of "our imprisoned city dweller" for an easily accessible "wide world of out-of-doors . . . for crowded mankind to take his elbow from between his neighbor's ribs."

"Western Impact on the Nation," a more customary essay, illustrates clearly that western experiences and aspirations comingle with national impulses and form an integral part of national history which can be construed as neither the sole genesis of
national emergence nor dismissed as inconsequential to national development. Surely
the essay says enough about the national importance of the west to allay the western
defensiveness that evokes belligerent reactions to the kind of truth-telling contained in

Even casual observers of western life should be able to distinguish clearly and easily
between individual achievement and regional reliance on massive federal support which
inevitably benefits individuals. Similarly, the inescapable fact of pervasive federal
subsidy in the west can be denied with a straight face only by unnecessarily
hypersensitive individuals or cynical, self-seeking economic interests. From such,
Frantz’s straight talk is likely to evoke an angry response. But thoughtful, truly
self-confident westerners who love our land for what it is rather than for what we can get
out of it, will ponder carefully what one of our own says about our country—and
especially so as we westerners cope with future-is-now crises bred by urbanization,
industrialization, and diminishing resources.

Frederick W. Rathjen
West Texas State University

$5.00.

This is a well-written book which should have an attraction for the juvenile reader.
The fictional characters are colorfully drawn and of particular interest was the technical
description of manning, loading, and firing a cannon. The central character in the novel,
Billy King, who is but fifteen years old and volunteers for service at the Alamo
emphasizes the desperate situation facing the Texans.

Against a backdrop of fiction, Templeton follows the standard interpretation in
blaming Fannin’s refusal to march to the aid of the beleaguered fortress as the principal
reason for the disaster which followed. The author’s treatment of Louis Rose, the only
man who would not cross the line drawn by Travis, is sympathetic and believable. All in
all, an enjoyable reading experience and a painless way of learning some basic Texas
history.

Stanley E. Siegel
University of Houston

_A History of Texas Baptists_. By J.M. Carroll. Dallas (Baptist Standard Publishing Co.),
Index. p. 1030. $18.00.

James M. Carroll (1852-1931) pastored several Baptist churches in Texas, including
the First Baptist churches of Lampasas and Waco. He held a variety of offices in Texas
Baptist life and was the founder and first president of San Marcos Baptist Academy.
Carroll also served for a time as president of Oklahoma Baptist University and Howard
Payne College. The author of several books, his most significant literary work was _A
History of Texas Baptists_. This man would be greatly revered by Texas Baptists except
for the fact that he was overshadowed by his older brother, B.H. Carroll, the founder of
Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth.

While Carroll was a student at Baylor College at Independence, J.W.D. Creath gave
him a large file of material and commissioned the young man to add to it and some day
write a history of the Baptists of Texas. And so his professional career as a minister was
begun with this task on his mind and in his closet. And add to it he did. Some years later,
with enough material collected to fill a thousand page volume, Carroll spent ten hours a
day over four years preparing his history of Texas Baptists. A grant of $5,000 made
possible this endeavor.
Now comes the Historical Publishing Society with an authentic reproduction of the original. The society has pledged one dollar for every book sold to be given to the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Carroll’s work is a masterpiece. It has who, when, where, and how many statistics for the researcher and a wealth of personal anecdotes that make history come to life. Carroll’s writing style flows easily, with the result that the reader is surprised and pleased to find that this massive volume is anything but laborious reading.

Divisions of the book are: I—Pre-1836 Texas; II—Early Baptist work, 1836-1846; III—Some beginnings: notably Baylor, 1846-1860; IV—The impact of Civil War and Reconstruction, 1861-1875; V—Birth of a variety of missionary and charitable institutions and moves toward consolidation, 1876-1886; VI—Development after consolidation into the Baptist Convention of Texas, 1886-1889; VII—A look at various institutions during the quarter of a century preceding publication, 1890-1920.

The reproduction is an impressive volume, the fine quality of which is a suitable match for the craftsmanship of the history it contains. The index listing persons and institutions is essential to a work of this magnitude. The pictures are interesting but for some reason most of them are out of place by a chapter or more.

Jerry M. Self
Nacogdoches, Texas


J. Mason Brewer was once declared by J. Frank Dobie to be the best storyteller of black folklore anywhere in America. Dog Ghosts, published first in 1958, and The Word on the Brazos, issued in 1953, are solid evidence in the affirmative. The University of Texas Press has favored us with a reissue of these collections in one volume.

From Dog Ghosts one breathes in the atmosphere of front porch rocking chair and the tales which issue from keen-eyed vision. For instance, there is “Unkhh” Aaron from near Luling whose secret to life is “‘Ah don’ dig up de pas’, and ‘Ah don’ tote de future.’

This Baptist preacher particularly enjoyed The Word on the Brazos, subtitled “Negro Preacher Tales from the Brazos Bottoms of Texas.” Within these stories one finds the common wisdom of ordinary folk which often outstrips the pretentious learning of the preachers. “‘Ah calls to min’”’ the confusion of one preacher who had mistaken a good sister’s emotion over her toothache as conviction due to his sermon. And there is an appropriate put-down when the widow checks to see who is in the coffin after the pastor’s eulogy goes beyond good sense.

The stories capture basic insights into life as when the young “‘Mefdis’ Preachuh” clears the ghosts out of the church by preaching on tithing and proposing to take an offering. And the elder who called his oxen Camelite, Prespuhiteerun, Mefdis’, and Baptis’ displayed his understanding of dumb animals and denominations.

The Dog Ghosts stories were collected from storytellers, one learns from the table of contents, who range in age from 21 to 97 and who reside throughout central and eastern Texas. The forewords by Chapman J. Milling and J. Frank Dobie are informative and both books are enhanced by illustrations from the pens of John Biggers and Ralph White, Jr.

Read the folktales if you are interested in humor, pathos, good sense, and a willingness to be less somber and thus more serious about life.

Jerry M. Self
Nacogdoches, Texas

While the title of this new addition to Confederate history sounds quite broad, this work is principally the diary of Lt. George L. Griscom who was the adjutant of the 9th Texas Cavalry Regiment. Yet, this book is so much more than just the publishing of another Civil War diary, due to the thorough and meticulous editorial research that is embodied in it. In fact, the reader may find himself more engrossed in the interesting details found in the notes sections than Griscom's diary itself. As one example, Kerr concisely illuminates the complex tribal politics and factionalism that determined Indian allegiances at the outset of the Civil War.

This, however, is not to minimize Griscom's diary, nor the diarist. Griscom was articulate, sensitive and possessed the rare habit of recording the most minute details of his regiment's activities. He names every man injured, however slightly, in all the engagements, whether major battles of minor skirmishes. In this, the diary is a more complete chronicle of the history of that regiment than can be found in the Official Records of the War of the Rebellion.

The editor prefaces each part of the book, of which there are six, with a brief resume of the campaigns covered by Griscom's entries. This is a helpful aid to the reader, giving the broader perspective of the war in which Griscom was caught up.

Between Kerr and Griscom the history of the 9th Regiment is traced from its organization in the fall of 1861 to its surrender on May 15, 1865. In between are recorded all of the hard-fought campaigns that steadily took their toll of the roster of the regiment. For all purposes the activities of the regiment—and the brigade—ceased following the Nashville debacle in December of 1864. For the remainder of the war their time was relegated to recruiting their strength and in minor skirmishing with the Federals in the backwater war zone around Vicksburg, Mississippi.

Ross' Cavalry Brigade has long awaited its popular renown in ranking with Hood's Brigade and the Terry Rangers. The fact is that the war-time record of Ross' cavalrymen was outstanding, arduous and excelled, if that, by few other comparable Confederate units. This book should close that gap considerably and perhaps the editor will be encouraged to write the definitive history of that illustrious brigade.

Robert W. Glover
Tyler Jr. College


Jerry Thompson's Vaqueros is not the definitive history of the Tejanos, Mexican-Americans who fought under Unionist or Rebel flags during the War between the States. It is, however, an interesting introduction into an important, albeit largely unnoticed, theater of Civil War history.

The slim volume depicts the heroism and the rank opportunism of the prominent Blue and Gray Tejanos who clashed not only in the battle-scarred Rio Grande Valley, but, as the Laredo Junior College historian asserts, "most of the major battles". Here, for example, is Santos Benavides and his courageous brothers, defenders of the Stars and Bars, who, among the estimated 9500 Mexican-American soldiers, earned high military honors and the respect of their Anglo commanders. Less honorably, but no less significant to the Rio Grande fratricide, was the enigmatic Adrian J. Vidal, a Confederate officer who deserted, along with his entire command, to the Union cause, and shortly afterwards deserted again to enlist in the Mexican Juaristas, only to be captured, court-martialed and executed by the Imperialists in 1865.
While thorough in its historical accuracy, *Vaqueros* is, on occasion, colorless reading. True, few historians can rival the poetry of a Bruce Catton or Shelby Foote, yet the repetition of the Civil War as the "epic struggle" is trying; still more tedious are such attempts at high drama as "They came out of the grey dawn from New Orleans," and "Ford envisioned himself as the Confederate David who would march into the Rio Grande Valley and either slay the Union Goliath or drive him into the Rio Grande." Fortunately for the reader, most of Thompson's asides are couched in a legion of footnotes, over 270.

While *Vaqueros* is not the seminal history of the Mexican-American's role in the Civil War, Mr. Thompson's competent research and bibliography should intrigue the "Mr. Lincoln's War" reader and the serious historian alike.

Robert C. Davis
Dallas, Texas

The author of this volume feels that the more prominent engagements of the Civil War in Louisiana, such as those fought at New Orleans, Baton Rouge, and Mansfield, have overshadowed the savage amphibious warfare that raged from Bayou Des Allemands through the Atchafalaya River Basin and Bayou Teche for ultimate control of the Red River and the Confederacy's supply line with Texas. The author attempts to bring this little-known but strategically important campaign to light.

The first of the twelve chapters outlines the fall of New Orleans, the arrival of Benjamin "Beast" Butler in Louisiana, and the destruction of Donaldsonville by Union forces. The remaining chapters cover approximately one year from the arrival of Confederate General Richard Taylor in August, 1862, through the Union campaign for control of the inland waterways and Taylor's triumphant counter-attack in June, 1863.

In re-creating the almost forgotten battles of Bisland, Irish Bend, and Vermilion Bridge, the author relies primarily on regimental histories, soldiers' journals, contemporary newspapers and the *Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*.

The military account is enlivened with many stories of human interest, such as the execution of Unionist Louisianians for treason by Confederate Louisianians, the improbable capture of a Yankee gunboat by Texas cavalry, and the sheer audacity of Taylor's "mosquito fleet" attack across Berwick Bay.

The author refers to this account as "the first phase of the bayou country campaign" and "being a southerner," chooses to end the narrative at the point of the 1863 Confederate triumph "in order to give his book a sort of happy ending."

The author's notes, including comments made from personal exploration of the battle sites, are very informative. They show the author to be familiar with both the geography and subject of his undertaking.

It is hoped that the remainder of the war in the bayou country story will be continued by Mr. Raphael at a later date.

Michael L. Toon
Austin, Texas


Eveline Alexander, born and raised in New York, was the wife of cavalry officer Andrew Alexander. When Andrew received orders to go to New Mexico Territory in the
summer of 1866, Eveline accompanied him on the journey from Ft. Smith, Arkansas, to Ft. Union. The Alexanders traversed the Indian Territory and the Llano Estecado on their way west, and Eveline offers fascinating descriptions of the terrain and the Indians they encountered. She describes the people she meets and the hazards of the trail with great interest and relates numerous anecdotes concerning the weather, the animals, and the uncomfortable living conditions. During the trip and the subsequent garrison duty in New Mexico and Colorado Territories, Eveline met such notables as General William T. Sherman and "Old Kit" Carson and toured Santa Fe and several Indian villages. The interest of the lady from New York in the Indians and in the diverse landscapes brings a freshness to her narrative and creates images which make the reading of her diary enjoyable and informative.

Myres enhances the readability of the journal by correcting the obvious errors in grammar, but she allows Eveline Alexander to tell the story; the narrative evolves smoothly without pernicious editor's notes interrupting the flow. Myres provides the proper biographical context for the diary in the introduction and includes biographical sketches of the officers mentioned in Eveline's account. The footnotes for each chapter illuminate and expand the topics mentioned by Eveline and offer numerous suggestions for further reading on these topics. As a result of judicious editing and organization, Cavalry Wife is more than a mere collection of one woman's experiences. Eveline Alexander's story is placed in the broader context of the fascinating panorama of the post-war Southwest. This book will enhance any library and will undoubtedly encourage further interest in the history of the region.

Michael Everman
Oklahoma State University


While I was taking graduate courses at the University of Texas in 1949, Professor H. Bailey Carroll assigned me the topic, "Merchandising on the Santa Fe Trail," for a term paper. I tackled the project with vigor and satisfied the requirements for the assignment; but as I now look back the pickings were poor and the end result most disappointing. When invited to review Broadcloth and Britches: The Santa Fe Trade, by Seymour Connor and Jimmy Skaggs, I jumped on the chance, hoping that at last the merchandising angle had been properly explored and analyzed. Reading the book was a pleasant, enlightening experience, but I closed it with a feeling that its focus was much broader than the title implied and that Bailey will have to wait for still another venture into the phase of the Santa Fe Trail.

The Connor-Skaggs volume may be divided into three parts. The first third describes the origin and development of the Santa Fe trade, with a glance at merchandising and at Indian threats. The role of Becknell is given a fresh look. In part two the story shifts from trail history to Texas' territorial designs on New Mexico—which extended into the Civil War period. This section provides background insights into the expanding interest and investment by Texans in New Mexico today. Part three describes the entry of the Santa Fe Railroad into New Mexico—which ended more than fifty years of wagon traffic on the old trail. In a concluding chapter, the authors assess the impact of the Santa Fe trade on the national economy, and particularly on the history of the adjoining region.

The wide loop, the elimination of footnotes, the selected bibliography—all suggest that the book is intended primarily for a popular audience. Twenty three illustrations, four maps, and an index enhance its value. Spritely written, with an accent on drama,
Broadcloth and Britches will find a ready niche on the bookshelf of works on the Southwest.

Harwood P. Hinton
University of Arizona


Further evidence of the rich ethnic diversity of Texas history is revealed by Mary Whatley Clarke's account of the remarkable career of the Swedish pioneer S.M. Swenson and the rich contributions which he and his kinsmen made to the state and the nation. This well-researched study was an eye-opener to this reviewer as the Swensons are not nearly as well known to Texas historians as they deserve to be. Not only did S.M. Swenson lead the vanguard of Swedish pioneers to Texas in 1836 and help to establish a number of Swedish communities, but he also became a leading planter (Fort Bend County), land speculator, and merchant, financier, and civic leader in Austin before the Civil War. His Union sympathies worked great hardship upon him and forced him to seek sanctuary in Mexico and eventually to locate in New York City where he rose to be one of America's leading financiers. Swenson returned strong affection for Texas, and his Texas investments grew in size and value. His sons Eric and Albin founded the Swenson Brothers Cattle Company in 1882 and, with the aid of such managers as Frank Hastings and their own cousin Andrew John Swenson, developed one of Texas' largest and most successful ranching operations. Mary Clarke ably describes the breeding and feeding experiments, the mail-order marketing of cattle, and the combatting of prairie dog, mesquite, and drouth degradations.

Not only did the Swensons lasso and revitalize the great Spur Ranch and attract settlers and build communities like Stamford, they also pioneered the vital Texas sulphur industry, founding the Freeport Sulphur Company in 1911, an interesting story in itself. Although the editing was lax, this book represents valuable social and economic history.

Edward Hake Phillips
Austin College


Originally published in 1938, this revised and expanded edition of Between Sun and Sod includes an introduction by Fred Rathjen. The author, Mrs. Lewis, who now lives in Dallas, Texas, first went to the High Plains as a bride in 1912. Interested in the region, she started collecting personal interviews from early settlers and supplemented those sources with a host of secondary works which she integrated into this interesting history of the Texas panhandle. Brief chapters survey geography and exploration and the coming of the buffalo hunters and soldiers; Lewis then analyzes the socio-cultural history of the region while not ignoring economic developments. With the heart of the study spanning the years from 1870 to 1900, its focus is on the development of Clarendon, with attention also given to the founding of Mobeetie and Tascosa.

Between Sun and Sod was well worth revising and re-releasing. It belongs on the "must read" list of those scholars and laymen interested in frontier Texas.

James M. Smallwood
Oklahoma State University
In the past few years East Texas communities have prepared county histories as part of the heritage awareness program which came with the Bicentennial observances of 1976. Such a work is *Tyler & Smith County, Texas: An Historical Survey*, edited by Robert W. Glover, assisted by Linda Brown Cross. The result is an attractive book with the dust jacket featuring a painting of the Smith County Courthouse and Square of about 1876.

The substance of the book, as Professor Glover says, is "an anthology of sorts," since the contributors of articles are local historians, both lay and professional, who are recognized as qualified in the topic of their chapter contribution. Chapters are arranged chronologically through the Reconstruction Era, beginning with Robert K. Peters' interesting account "from Wilderness to War." Bob Glover in Chapter II, as would be expected, competently relates the story of this important Confederate center during the Civil War. Professor John Carrier, Head of the Department of History at East Texas State University, presents the Reconstruction chronicle, based on the sources and complete with some detail on the strife of the E.J. Davis regime in Texas in the early 1870s. Dean Frank Smyrl of Texas Eastern University (Tyler) in Chapter IV provides interesting glimpses of Tyler's "politics and politicians, 1875-1975." In summary he notes that the county since 1952 has given notable support to candidates of the Republican Party. Chapter V on "commerce and industry," written by Robert Fleet of the Tyler public school system, traces the course of business history to the 1970s. "Cotton" and "Roses" are parts of Chapter VI, co-authored by Ben Browning, retired County Agent, and Dr. Eldon W. Lyle, noted authority on rose culture. Linda Brown Cross, assistant editor, in Chapter VII adds a useful glossary of census "beats" and communities, including notes as to the destiny of each. Co-authors Ethel Callaway and Katie Stewart present Part I of Chapter VIII which relates the "Black Ethnic" contribution in Smith County history. They conclude that local blacks "have made tremendous progress" in their 110 years of freedom. Rabbi Harvey E. Wessel, Part II, summarizes the Jewish contribution, showing in a downtown map the various business locations of Jewish merchants of the past. The Lebanese community warrants an account as Part III with Sylvia Haddad, a Tyler resident, as author. The "contemporary scene" is described by Barbara Carder, senior student at Texas Eastern. She sees in overview that healthy development of the county is continuing, although much remains to be done.

There are eight appendices pertinent to census percentages and minorities. An end-paper contemporary map of the county adds usefulness. All in all, this heritage book should look well alongside like volumes appearing as products of the Bicentennial observance.

James L. Nichols
Stephen F. Austin State University


When Sam Houston was inaugurated for the second time as President of the Republic of Texas, he feelingly declared, "Oh, it is woman that makes the hero. It is she that instills the fire of patriotism . . . ." It is this sentiment which the authors of *First Ladies of Texas* so ably illustrate as the rule, rather than the exception, in their book on...
the lives of the women who stood behind the great men of Texas. While much has been written about the Presidents and Governors of Texas during its first one hundred years as a free republic and state, with the exception of Margaret Houston, little attention has been paid to the women who shared the lives of the highest-ranking Texans. This book is a worthy attempt to remedy that omission.

The lives of the First Ladies of Texas reveal no stereotype. Each was different in background, personality, education, religion, cultural interests, and influence; yet each left, to a lesser or greater degree, mark on the administration of her husband and on the development of Texas. One of the most influential was the wife of James Henderson, Frances Henderson, who did much to establish the Episcopal Church in Texas. There is evidence that another governor’s wife, Lucadia Pease, not satisfied with the location chosen for the erecting of the Governor’s Mansion, saw to it that the Mansion was built on the present site, diagonally across from the Capitol. Another First Lady, called “the Dolly Madison of the mansion,” Lena Sayers, systematized the social life of the Mansion, setting up precedents of great value to her successors.

As the authors point out, the women in almost every case seem to have had remarkably close and affectionate relationships with their husbands. Sam and Margaret Houston, as their letters reveal, were particularly devoted to each other, as were James and Sallie Hogg. With only one exception, Pendleton Murrah, every husband greatly respected and appreciated his First Lady.

Every First Lady, without exception, made great personal sacrifice in the interest of her husband’s public service to Texas. Many of the early First Ladies, such as Martha Wood, stayed home to supervise the farm and children, freeing their husbands to carry out the administration of the government. Others, like Lucadia Pease, had to leave an established home and sell carefully selected furniture to make the move to Austin. All wives suffered a loss in the time and attention of their husbands.

First Ladies of Texas is a well-written account of the lives of the thirty-one women who were the governors’ wives from the beginning of the Republic in 1836 through the centennial year of 1936. A final chapter sketches briefly the lives and contributions of the eight women who have served as First Ladies since that time. The book ends with twenty-seven pages containing a general bibliography as well as extensive selected bibliographies on each of the women included. In addition to its valuable biographical material, it contains interesting sidelights to Texas history, such as the recapture of Cynthia Ann Parker and the haunting of the Governor’s Mansion. It is valuable also for its brief accounts of each governor’s administration and for the history is provides of the building, decorating, and remodeling of the Governor’s Mansion. Significantly lacking, however, is an index. Despite this omission, the book retains its value. This reviewer feels it is of particular worth as a supplemental text in the Texas history classroom, where too often the shaping of history seems a masculine prerogative.

Rosemary Snider
Longview, Texas


The stark, beautiful landscape of the Big Bend region of Texas has a lure for the casual traveller as well as the seasoned explorer of the southwestern United States. When a historian adds the romance of ghost towns like Terlingua to such a series of images the student of such a territory finds the mix irresistible. Ken Ragsdale, director of educational services at the Texas State Historical Association, tells the story of the kingpin of the mercury mining operations in the Big Bend superbly in his exhaustive monograph, Quicksilver.
The book is much more than a history of an important mining company. It is a social history of a southwestern mining town. It touches on everything from the relationship of Mexican miners to the Anglo mining managers, to the problems of elementary education on the periphery of American society. The author includes incisive observations about local politics in the area, the special problems of transportation in a remote region (the Studebaker wagon was a remarkably tough vehicle), and the difficulties of supplying adequate amounts of potable drinking water for all those living and working in Terlingua.

The chief figure in this book is the controversial organizer and absolute lord of the company, Howard E. Perry. Ragsdale's portrait of one of the last of the old "robber barons" of the nineteenth century style, while not appealing, is thorough. The discussion of the manner and demeanor with which he ran the business, often from long distances, is an impressive reflection of careful scholarship. Perry's ruthlessness was manifested in everything from the wages he paid his Mexican laborers, to the way in which he obtained control of lucrative blocks of land, to his illegal operations in the Rainbow Mine episode. The significance of these developments can best be appreciated when the reader remembers that at one time, Terlingua was the largest source of mercury in the entire United States. During World War One, the munitions industry could not have supplied the American armed forces with adequate amounts of explosives without sufficient quantities of fulminate of mercury. The latter served as the priming compound in ammunition, which is to say, it set off the main charge of gunpowder. Long years of peace and an end to the easily obtained, high-grade cinnabar ore, brought the company to collapse on the eve of World War Two.

While the company operated, however, it helped shape the history of southwest Texas. The book is almost completely non-technical. Students of geology and mining engineering will find little specific information here. The volume is one of micro-business history, skillfully reinforced with an analysis of its social significance. Within this framework, the book is first class.

Allen Richman
Stephen F. Austin State University


The world has turned many times since the childhood days of our present generation of senior citizens. During their past sixty or seventy years these older people have witnessed the transition from the nineteenth century ethos to that of the twentieth century. It has been a transition both for better and for worse. These people may indeed be the last surviving generation to have seen this crucial move from the old to the new.

In his personal narrative about growing up in West Texas between 1913 and 1927, Paul Patterson outlines this transition on a grass roots level. The dust cover of his volume states that this is a book for boys and girls. Truly, our youth should read it, but these very sensitive memoirs ought not be limited to youngsters. Because of its important message and the author’s obvious intent, *Crazy Women In the Rafters* is a serious work.

Patterson grew up in the Upton County region in a time when this last farming and ranching frontier was slipping away. Still, it was frontier enough for the men to outnumber women three to one, and for running water to be a novelty. It was a time, however, when fathers and grandfathers on one day told tales of the long cattle drives, while on the next they purchased their first automobile. It was a place, the author states, where cowboys in chaps and felt hats danced the Turkey Trot.

Patterson does not totally whitewash the old days with a nostalgic brush. He admits their home-grown prejudices and inherited economic deprivation. His observations focus upon the hardships of a Texas family whose breadwinner was a scrupulously honest man caught up in our make-it American Society. Patterson's Papa was every inch a
Tocquevillian character, the ever-present American on the move. But this particular man's pot of gold at the end of the rainbow was actually a daily bowl of frijoles. The author incisively describes the anxieties and negative effects that such a way of life had on his loved ones.

Yet, through all the hardships, there was little sense of alienation. That overwhelming malaise which plagues urban American society today is conspicuously absent in Crazy Women In the Rafters. This book is a story of a people integrated with their surroundings; both with their fellow man and with nature. They had a sense of being part of something, part of a region perhaps. Young Paul may have worn patched hand-me downs to school, but he knew and interacted with all the other kids. He even interacted with his brothers and sisters. Their simple life-style may have dictated that dances and midnight suppers be the apex of social gatherings in Upland, Texas, but they were meaningful gatherings. Our bedroom suburbs of today simply do not and probably cannot equal this sense of community. All our present bourgeois affluence and gadgetry might even preclude the interaction the J.D. Pattersons took for granted. They may not have had our standard of living, but neither did they possess our current spiritual bankruptcy.

Those of us who can identify with this sense of true Texas belonging will find Patterson's work refreshing. Those many others who did not grow up smelling mesquite smoke, or watching heat waves dance, or hearing the cry of the West Texas wind, or feeling true companionship in the open air need to read this volume and contemplate it as well. It was written by a wise and compassionate old gentleman who freely confesses that much of his story might have sprung from a vivid imagination. But all people, I'd say, from the person on the assembly line to those in academe, function on their perceptions. Therefore, Paul Patterson is not only telling us how it was for one family, but perhaps for a significant portion of the population in that time and place. His book is a fine piece of Texana and Americana.

Tom Kreneck
Houston Metropolitan Research Center


For most of the twentieth century Archie and George Parr were the dukes of Duval County. Like the bosses of Tammany Hall in New York City and the Pendergast Machine in Kansas City, they perfected the art of ward politics, of favors for votes, of political graft and corruption. With fatherly care they watched over the Mexican-American population, speaking their language, preserving their culture, and respecting them as individuals rather than as aliens in the land of their ancestors. As a consequence, they became men of considerable influence, capable of launching a successful public career or of destroying aspiring local officials. In fact, George Parr achieved national importance in the 1948 Democratic senatorial race by delivering the pivotal votes for Lyndon Baines Johnson against Coke Stevenson.

Although Parr control in Duval County was amazing, the ineffectiveness of both state and federal officials was even more incredible. For, at best, the Parrs fashioned an unenviable public record. While providing economic and spiritual sustenance to their wards, they took excellent care of themselves. Brazenly they looted the Benavides school district year after year, “borrowed” $500,000 from the Duval County government, and consistently evaded federal income taxes. To maintain their position against opponents they used any means, often times illegal—ballot stuffing, bribery, threats, beatings, and on several occasions murder. Yet for all such misdeeds they served only two short prison sentences, despite the continual efforts of both the courts and government officials to assess punishment. Possibly author Dudley Lynch of Dallas
best summed up this malaise of public spirit and the flaunting of democratic processes by saying: "Duval! Like a loincloth, it hangs at the groin of Texas: 95 miles to the south of San Antonio, and two centuries, perhaps three, to the rear of Jeffersonian Democracy" (p. 10).

So for those who wish to read about an almost unbelievable political cancer which has existed— and still does—in Texas, The Duke of Duval is good copy. Lynch writes fluently and well; he has obviously researched his subject; and he has tried to present his story objectively.

Ben Procter
Texas Christian University


The author contends that "no one is in a better position" to give "an interesting and factual account" of the New London School explosion because of "my complete involvement." What emerges is a somewhat narrow personal account of the author's experiences on the day of the disaster. While it is obvious that Mrs. Bright wishes to share her observations with the reader, this first literary attempt cannot be considered a work of high historical reporting nor a comprehensive account of the greatest tragedy in the history of education.

The ten chapters are divided into three somewhat incoherent sections. Section One is the author's personal account of the explosion. Section Two consists of a short history of New London and the East Texas oil field, and Section Three is an appendix partially listing students enrolled at the time of the disaster along with a compilation of those killed in the explosion. Only fifty of the 234 pages are text with the remaining composed of photographs and lists of students. About half of the text is devoted to the explosion itself and the remainder to the East Texas oil field and early residents of New London.

Chapter One, "Warnings of Disaster," ends with "... the school radiators were heated by steam created by a furnace in the cafeteria half across the campus." This is a glaring error. If steam had been piped across the school grounds there would not have been faulty gas lines beneath the school.

Little is contributed to a comprehensive account of the tragedy and reaction to the explosion and its aftermath. Considering this lack of overview, Mrs. Bright's personal contribution still is important because it adds to the few available accounts of the disaster. The definitive work on the New London explosion has yet to be written.

Michael L. Toon
Austin, Texas


In this monograph, the first title in the projected Texas A&M University economic series, the author reviews the sad litany of events that surround the confused and chaotic circumstances involving our present energy crisis. Since 1948 public policy imposed upon the petroleum refining sector has been contradictory. The federal government attempted to insure competition in this area by controlling monopolistic tendencies on the part of major companies. Import quotas, preferential pricing, and at times, legal action were employed to reserve domestic markets for small independent refiners. But at the same time, particularly after the rise of the OPEC powers, the federal government has tried in the name of national security to develop programs stimulating our domestic
petroleum industry. The result has been failure on both points: Major refining companies, with access to foreign crude, have continued to dominate the domestic market; conversely the failure of smaller companies to generate expansion capital for domestic increases in refinery capacity and domestic crude production has again increased our reliance upon imported oil.

The author rightfully blames this impasse upon the lack of a well conceived national energy policy. But he believes that such a policy can be developed only with the industry itself furnishing dominant leadership. This is supportable to a point. It does not take into account the alleged sins of the industry as detailed in such recent works as Anthony Sampson's, The Seven Sisters: The Great Oil Companies and the World They Shaped (New York, 1975) and John M. Blair's, The Control of Oil (New York, 1976). These books, one by a reputable journalist, the other by a respected civil servant-academician, create a climate of public opinion making industry leadership a political impossibility. Lately, the industry, as it has during times of previous controversy, appears to be undertaking a campaign justifiably extolling some of its virtues. But these attempts to reverse the image will undoubtedly take considerably more time.

This book is an outgrowth of an economics dissertation and may turn-off many "traditional" historians with its jargon, graphs, and redundancies. However, such readers should persevere. They will be rewarded with an apt summation of recent public policy and its legislative history even though its conclusion at present seems unrealistic.

John O. King
University of Houston


Noted now as a tourist town and the location of a restored opera house, Central City a century ago was known as the capital of Gilpin County, "the richest square mile on earth." Peter McFarlane who became a mid-range, mining equipment entrepreneur arrived at Central City at the height of the gold and silver boom and remained to witness its decline over the next sixty years. The biography of McFarlane, a serious, sober, hard-working businessman, tells the story of the area, explains the technology, and serves to offset the wild stories of the mining frontier. The book is scholarly, well-written, and worth reading.

David McComb
Colorado State University

Perspectives and Irony in American Slavery. Edited by Harry P. Owens. Jackson (University Press of Mississippi), 1976. Notes, Bibliography. p. 188. $3.50.

In October, 1975, seven of the most eminent scholars on the subject of slavery gathered in Oxford, Mississippi and presented papers on the peculiar institution. The symposium titled "The Slave Experience in America: A Bicentennial Perspective" was sponsored by the Department of History of the University of Mississippi. The speakers were: Carl N. Degler, Eugene D. Genovese, David Brion Davis, Stanley L. Engerman, William K. Scarboroough, John W. Blassingame, and Kenneth M. Stampp. This volume contains the papers presented at the conference and is "must" reading for those persons interested in American slavery who did not attend the symposium.

Billy D. Ledbetter
Cooke County College

Few historians will be surprised by Herman Belz’s thesis that Republicans shifted from grudging support of emancipation as a military necessity in 1861 to a determination to protect freedmen’s basic civil and political rights by 1866. Civil War and legal specialists, however, will want to read this careful explanation of exactly how and why Republican Congressmen considered many legal and Constitutional theories before passing the civil rights laws and Thirteenth and Fourteenth Amendments in response to shifting military and political developments of the period. This is the best, if not the definitive, study of this narrowly defined topic.

Robert G. Sherer
Wiley College


Beyond the heavy industry and the freeways, claims author Richard Phelan, there is a wild Texas yet, a Texas where the beer cans are few and the litter is little, where the wilderness is almost intact. Most of us look toward it from speeding autos, down on it from streaking air ships, or in air-conditioned comfort we view books such as this and feel romantic about it. We wish we knew more about it, marvel at our forefathers who ate it raw, and are often glad we don’t have it so tough. Phelan wrote this book to satisfy at least the first part.

I particularly like the preface, perhaps because it agrees with some of my own intuitive reactions to Texas. “No other state has so many . . .” land forms, climates, etc. This is the stuff we were raised on, confirm with our communications to outsiders and to ourselves, and pass on to the young when it becomes our turn. As one who has made the drive to Amarillo or to the Big Bend from Nacogdoches several times, the changes are apparent even if measured in gas stops and rest areas. These changes structure Phelan’s chapters: the Trans-Pecos, the Edward Plateau, the Llano Uplift, the Stakes Plain, the Prairies and Cross Timbers, the East Texas Forest, the Gulf Coast, and the Rio Grande Plain. The material in each is well presented in language easy to follow and to understand. Here even travelling salesmen will learn about natural and human Texas. And I must especially commend the attention given to East Texas. Many so-called “Texas” books assume that Louisiana extends to the Brazos; this one gives us our due.

A word must be said for Bones’ photographs. Having seen his Texas Heartland it was natural to expect a great deal. He makes good again. Whether the photograph is the patterns on the underside of a weathered tree or the panorama of the Chisos Mountains, his work is masterful. It is a good book, and will make a fine gift, if you can stand to let it go.

Archie P. McDonald
Stephen F. Austin State University

BOOK NOTES


“This book is not a dreary, chronological history of a town; rather it is a collection of pictoral and verbal snapshots of Nacogdoches—views of Nacogdoches from many