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Book Reviews

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BOOK REVIEWS

*Ben K. Green: A Descriptive Bibliography of Writings by and about Him.* By Charles A. Wilson. (Northland Press, P. O. Box N, Flagstaff, Arizona 86001), 1977. Photographs, Illustrations, Index. p. 158. $10.50

Ben K. Green fans, bibliographers, and book dealers all have been aided tremendously by the compilation and comments of Robert A. Wilson in *Ben K. Green: A Descriptive Bibliography of Writings by and about Him.* Few if any of Green's published words have slipped past Wilson, who has been just as careful in his descriptions. From *The International Quarter Horse Tally Book,* a periodical which Green edited and for which he wrote, to *The Color of Horses,* a book-length work believed to be the one of which Green was proudest, Wilson moves chronologically, detailing each edition and printing with great precision. Fortunately the compiler frequently steps over what he defines as the bounds of a "true bibliographer" and provides comments both personal and perceptive, adding considerably to the value of this bibliography.

Besides the technical aspects of Green's writings, Wilson touches on a number of the colorful controversies that go hand-in-hand with Ben K. Green—the question of his academic and scientific training, how true-to-life his stories actually are, how more than one story purported to be new had actually appeared in print before, and some sloppy counting in at least one "limited edition." (This reviewer has himself seen one yet unnumbered copy of a limited edition for sale in the book section of a well known department store!) Rest assured, the biographer of Ben K. Green, should there ever be one, will have an opportunity to deal with even more controversies, but he or she should note well the skill with which the bibliographer Wilson has dealt with those sensitive questions related to Green as a writer and horseman.

From this bibliography, the reader can determine even the minutest qualities and differences in various editions and printings of Green's works, from changes in bindings and dust jackets to typographical errors. Sometimes Wilson comments on current prices buyers are paying for certain items, from the scarce and classic work, *The Shield Mares,* to the rising cost of *Horse Tradin',* now in its fourteenth printing; the first printing sold originally for $5.95 and now goes for $50, while the fourteenth printing sells in the bookstores for $7.95—supposedly the effect of inflation, but just as likely a measure of what the publisher feels the market will bear.

The sections of the work dealing with articles about Green and his obituaries are naturally not as thorough as the one dealing with his
works. Wilson catalogs the pieces that got the widest circulation, but there is little hope of his being exhaustive in such a search. Both sections will aid any future biographer, but as Wilson warns again and again, care should be taken not to believe everything written about Green, especially in his obituaries.

This bibliography is available not only in the trade edition as cited above but also in a "deluxe edition . . . limited to 100 specially bound, numbered, and slipcased copies signed by the author and including a previously unpublished story by Dr. Ben K. Green." The previously unpublished story, "Ben Green's Indian Blanket," presumably as told to and remembered by the compiler, remains unfinished as a result of Green's death, but it is a story well worth reading and perhaps even paying the extra money for the deluxe edition, even if the "new" story is but four pages long.

In the end, Green is always judged a fabulous yarn-spinner and writer. He is acclaimed as an important writer of regional material, and his popularity has caused his work to be translated into numerous languages for sale abroad and printed in braille and sound recorded for the deaf. Some of his works will long be in print, and others in great demand while out-of-print. People who knew Ben K. Green firsthand will always be the ones most interested in him and his works, but generations to come will surely want to search out his works if they read only a little of Wilson's fine effort.

Frank H. Smyrl
The University of Texas at Tyler

*Hispanic Culture in the Southwest.* By Arthur L. Campa. (The University of Oklahoma Press, 1005 Asp Avenue, Norman, Oklahoma 73069), 1979. Photographs, Maps, Notes, Bibliography, Index. p. 316. $25.00

The late Dr. Campa has written a popular treatment of the American Southwest. The book is well documented and contains a good bibliography. Ample illustrations, primarily maps and photographs, provide the reader added insight to the Southwest and its past.

The book utilizes an interdisciplinary approach to trace the development of Hispanic culture from *conquistadors* to the present. Campa shows how Hispanos who were remote from the population centers of Mexico were able to develop a distinctive folk culture while retaining their Spanish heritage.

These borderlands, on the periphery of the Spanish Empire, were often-neglected and underpopulated. The author surveys the wide range
of indigenous peoples who inhabited the area prior to the arrival of the Spaniards. Coronado's conquering expedition ushered in three-hundred years of Spanish-Mexican exploration, conquest, and assimilation. Campa analyzes the history and differing cultures of each modern-day state in the Southwest, pointing out correctly the regional variations among the states owing to differing climate, topography, and presence of seminomadic tribes. However, while local conditions varied, certain features of Hispanic culture remained common to all.

With Mexican independence, Hispanic culture continued to flourish but underwent noticeable variations. This brief period of Mexican political domination was followed by the Mexican War and American annexation of the Southwest. American political and cultural domination proved a mixed blessing for the Hispanos. Once dominant, but now overwhelmed by sheer numbers and isolated in separate enclaves from the Anglo majority, the Hispanos gradually were reduced to the status of second-class citizens. Under such circumstances, linguistic, cultural, and religious ties assumed paramount importance in holding the Hispano communities together. However, the dominant Anglo culture did make inroads, and a gradual acculturation to American life diminished the contrasts between cultures.

The post World War II period witnessed the beginning of a new upward mobility for the Hispanos. This process has been considerably hastened by the nation’s largest minority demanding not only a better life, but the belated recognition of Hispanic ethnic pride and culture. Campa also examines contrasts in Hispanic and American cultures and analyzes Hispanic progress in the attainment of their goals.

Richard B. Chardkoff
Northeast Louisiana University

*Africans and Creeks: From the Colonial Period to the Civil War.*

*Southeastern Indians Since the Removal Era.* Edited by Walter L. Williams. (University of Georgia Press, Waddell Hall, Athens, Georgia 30602), 1979. Photographs, Bibliography, Index. p. 253. $18.50 cloth; $6.00 paper.

The publication of new books about American Indians continues at a pace paralleled by few other topics in American history. While many of these recent books merely duplicate earlier treaties, some have opened original avenues of investigation and have helped channel further research efforts into these fertile areas. Two of the books under consideration fit into the latter category and the third publication offers the best historical overview of an Indian group about whom much has been written.

Daniel Littlefield, already recognized for his earlier works on the nineteenth century relationship between blacks and members of the Seminole and Cherokee nations, now turns his attention toward the interaction between slaves and the Creek peoples. Through use of extensive archival and published sources, Littlefield demonstrates that during the late colonial period the Creeks of Georgia and Alabama had only minimal contact with runaway slaves, but the chaos of the American Revolution changed this as many Carolina slaves fled to the Southern frontier. The Creeks gradually developed a system of slavery which by the 1830s resembled the "peculiar institution" established by neighboring whites. Throughout this transitional period the slavery issue played a major role in tribal development and it contributed to the splintering process between Red Stick and White Stick factions during 1813. Slaves followed their Creek masters to Indian Territory during the Removal Era of the 1830s and many of these masters willingly joined the Confederate States of America three decades later. Despite the unusual severity of their slave code, Creeks displayed less racial animosity toward blacks than did other southeastern tribes, and they somewhat helped safeguard the rights of these freedmen during Reconstruction.

The Creek removal to Indian Territory was duplicated many times as the various southeastern tribes were dispossessed and driven along numerous Trails of Tears to their present locations. Much has been written about these epic journeys and the later development of the Oklahoma tribes, but the remnants of those groups who remained in their original homelands have been overlooked. Walter Williams has attempted to correct this oversight by compiling the articles of ten scholars to show that several tribes not only stayed in the southeast, but have maintained viable cultures in the face of intense pressures. These groups—including the Cherokee, Tunica, Lumbee, Houma, Catawba, Creek, Choctaw, Seminole and several fragmentary tribes in Virginia—struggled throughout the nineteenth century to maintain their Indian identities in the face of white attempts to lump them together under a broader and more despised racial category of "colored." During the twentieth century each of these groups has successfully won federal
recognition, as well as the treaty rights and benefits which accrue from this recognition. Williams’ concluding chapter summarizes the findings of the various authors, and an extensive bibliographical essay provides the basis for future research on this neglected facet of American history.

Two thousand miles to the west live the people whose story is portrayed by Donald Worcester’s *The Apaches: Eagles of the Southwest*. The chief value of this book lies not with the level of primary research, but rather with its skillful synthesis of previously published materials. Worcester has molded the writings about the various Apache bands into an overview of those diverse groups. His assessment of their history focuses on Apache-white relations from Spanish colonial times to the present day, though he also provides some understanding of the cultural context of Apache life. Worcester likewise corrects some long-held historical myths such as those surrounding the 1861 Lt. George Bascom Affair and the 1863 murder of Mangas Coloradas.

Each of the three books deserves positive consideration by a broad group of historians, anthropologists and *aficionados* of Indian life.

Michael L. Tate
University of Nebraska at Omaha

*Old Texas Trails*. By J. W. Williams. (Eakin Press, P. O. Box 178, Burnet, Texas 78611), 1979. Photographs, Maps, Acknowledgements, Bibliography, Index. p. 447. $18.95

With *Old Texas Trails*, J. W. Williams has produced a classic. Although Williams passed away before preparing release in book form, Kenneth F. Neighbours has done a scholarly job of editing Williams’ lifetime of work. The book, organized into seventeen chapters, covers the most important routes, trails, and roads to be carved out in Texas. With a detailed, almost microscopic eye, the author covers such diverse topics as Cabeza De Vaca’s route through Texas; Ramon’s road to San Antonio and from there to Nacogdoches; the National Road of the Republic of Texas; military roads in Central Texas; the Butterfield Overland Mail Route through the state; and concludes with Robson’s trip through West Texas in 1879. Most pleasing about the book is detail, for Williams traveled each and every road and put his copious notes into this volume.

Moreover, the author was more than “just” a historian. He was a zoologist, mathematician, botanist, and astronomer. Thus he brought a wide range of talent to bear on his search for trails and roads. It is not surprising, therefore, that the author’s coverage differs from earlier works. Throughout *Old Texas Trails*, Williams time and again uncovers
errors that were found in earlier works. For example, in chapter one he offers proof that De Vaca traveled a different route across Texas than was previously supposed. Again, almost microscopically time after time, Williams shows that earlier experts were miles off on their markings of various roads.

Of course, as the reader would expect, this volume is stylishly produced. It is loaded with maps, more than twenty, including a giant foldout at the back of the book. It is copiously footnoted with the author trying to prove all his controversial statements. All in all, this work is a valuable piece of Texana.

James Smallwood
Oklahoma State University


To have been isolated and so little studied for decades, the Big Bend region of Texas is becoming one of the state's best known natural resources of recent years. In addition to various histories, guides, and handbooks, there have been newspaper and popular magazine articles. Now Roland H. Wauer, former chief naturalist for the national park, has produced the second edition of his Naturalist's Big Bend, which was first published in 1973.

Wauer provides a brief historical overview of the region, then assesses the "living scene today." Describing the five natural areas of the park, he discusses the types of trees and shrubs to be found in each, offering the intriguing suggestion that if you knew the trees and shrubs of the world well enough, you could determine where you are simply by studying them. His discussion of the cacti, mammals, birds (a particular specialty of his), reptiles and amphibians, and fish provide an equally good introduction to the park, which, he points out, is the best remaining example of the Chihuahuan Desert.

No one knows the park better than Wauer, who spent six years there as a park service employee. He hiked and camped all over the area, studying the environment, collecting specimen, and researching. He was responsible for numerous commissioned studies for the park service and readily shared his information with others who were studying the park and its history. All this experience shows in the book, which
is enhanced throughout by Wauer's excellent photographs and is handsomely packaged and printed by Texas A&M University Press. It is recommended for anyone on their way to Big Bend.

Ron Tyler
Amon Carter Museum

Our Fiery Trial: Abraham Lincoln, John Brown, and the Civil War Era.
By Stephen B. Oates. (University of Massachusetts Press, Box 429, Amherst, Massachusetts, 01002), 1979. References, Index. p. 160. $11.50.

At the rate that Stephen Oates is writing books (this is his sixth), he has long since put most of the rest of us to shame for our slothfulness. Happily, he does not seem destined to have that negative cliche about "having written almost as much as Harry Elmer Barnes" pinned on him. There is an undeniable and consistent quality in Oates' work and he has demonstrated a genuine competence in providing solid and available source underpinning. Oates is a self-admitted humanist with an extraordinarily keen penchant for biography. He here offers some impressive insights and observations about the nature of that art and about the historian's craft in general. He uses for a backdrop musings and elaborations on his experiences while writing his quite impressive biographical trilogy on Lincoln, Brown, and Nat Turner, for which he calls this book "a companion volume."

The essays all have merit, and space does not permit an exposition upon their full content. Perhaps the poorest, "Ghost Riders in the Sky," reveals Oates' own philosophical biases. The last essay is extremely good, on the art of biography, and very moving at times—I share with him having once had a mild hallucination, catching a glimpse of my man, S. D. Lee, as he once "saw" John Brown. But for me the first essay, "Styron's War Against the Blacks," is the most impressive, a masterly summary and commentary.

This is not the kind of book that "every buff should buy for his personal library." Its high cost and brevity render it rather a dear item. It is, however, stimulating reading for the professional historian and a veritable gem of good example and enlightening discussion for the novice.

Herman M. Hattaway
University of Missouri - Kansas City
Cry Comanche, The 2nd U. S. Cavalry in Texas, 1855-1861.
By Colonel Harold B. Simpson. (Hill Junior College Press, P. O. Box 619, Hillsboro, Texas 76645), 1979. Photographs, Appendix, Bibliography, Index. p. 186. $10.50

Colonel Harold B. Simpson's recent book Cry Comanche is the story of the famous 2nd United States Cavalry. Although the regiment existed actively for only six years and five months, its history is remarkable for (1) its Indian combat operations and (2) for its output of general officers for future wars.

The regiment was created by Congress in 1855 for the purpose of protecting the Texas frontier from Indian, primarily Comanche, raids of one kind or another. Secretary of War Jefferson Davis gave special attention to selection of personnel and equipment for the regiment, thus giving origin to the nickname "Jeff Davis' Own." A majority of the officers were southerners who had graduated from West Point. Horses for the unit were purchased by knowledgeable officers of the 2nd Cavalry, authorized to buy the best blooded mounts available. For appearances sake, and to spur trooper morale, each company was assigned horses of one color. However, white and black horses were avoided because they would not blend well into the background. As is well known by frontier and Civil War students, especially Texans, the regiment was commanded by Albert Sidney Johnston (formerly of Texas Republic service), with Robert E. Lee, the Virginian, as second in command. Officially formed at Louisville, Kentucky in April 1855, the 2nd Cavalry was actually put together at Jefferson Barracks, Missouri, from where it marched slowly overland to the Texas frontier in the fall of that year.

During the next five years the regiment became involved in forty engagements, scores of patrols, long reconnaissance missions and many escort assignments. The author makes good use of standard sources in his accounts of these actions. The reviewer, however, a would-be biographer of Fitzhugh Lee, ventures herein a slightly different account of the story of Fitz Lee's arrow wound than that later reported by "Jack" Hayes, Lee's loyal friend. After being dragged on a mule litter 200 miles across the prairie from the Crooked River battle site in southwestern Kansas to Camp Radziminski in the Indian Territory, Fitz was able to write home as follows:

I was leading the charge through a dense thicket, had just shot and killed an Indian and was within a dozen yards of them, dispatching another, he shooting and I shooting, a sort of duel. I had shot at him twice, one ball taking effect in his breast, had him down and was about firing a third time, having my
pistol raised when an Indian about 10 yds. on my right shot me... I fell and was taken out of the thicket where [surgeons] rendered every assistance within their power... I thought I was going to die. I could scarcely breathe, the blood rising in my throat and mouth. I had no use of but one lung; had I not been in the act of shooting my arm would have been down and the arrow would have entered there. Fortunately for me it was a wet, rainy day and the strings of their bows were wet which prevented them in a measure from shooting with force, or else they say that arrow would have gone through and through me, and which accounts for so few of our men being killed and so many wounded.

Except for specifics, the spirit of Hayes' published account is accurate. Fitz Lee kept a copy of it among his personal papers in later years.

All in all, Colonel Simpson has made a fine contribution for us Civil War devotees, both professional and part-time. He includes a portfolio of photographs of regimental personnel who became generals, along with sketch maps showing rivers, forts and sites of major engagements. A useful appendix tabulates (i) officers assigned to the regiment during its tenure of existence and (2) enlisted men assigned, who were later commissioned in the U.S. Army.

Hill Junior College, as in the past, continues in its remarkable way to provide support for these "labors of love" by Harold B. Simpson, his students and associates. They are to be especially praised for the useful and entertaining book under review—Cry Comanche.

James L. Nichols
Stephen F. Austin State University


Originally compiled in an unpublished volume of letters and entitled Elisha Franklin Paxton, Memoir and Memorials, the Hill Junior College publication of John Gallatin Paxton's The Civil War Letters of General Frank "Bull" Paxton is an informative glimpse into the mind and heart of one of Lee and Jackson's senior officers and a poignant commentary of the universal expression of two separated lovers.

Frank Paxton was born in Rockbridge County, Virginia, on 4 March 1828, graduated from Washington College in 1845, and completed his law degree at the University of Virginia two years later. He
might have prospered as a gentleman farmer and ended his days by a cozy hearth telling tall tales to great-grandchildren had Fort Sumter not been shelled. An ardent secessionist, "Bull" (curiously, son John omitted how his father earned his cognomen, and the reader must ponder an oblique reference by a fellow officer, Kyd Douglas, who claimed Paxton was "brusque to rudeness") Paxton was elected first lieutenant of Company B (Rockbridge Rifles) 5th Virginia Infantry Regiment, a regiment incorporated into the Stonewall Brigade.

The one-time Virginia lawyer fought at the Battle of First Manassas (Bull Run) and later became brigadier-general and commander of the Stonewall Brigade at Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville. In this latter Confederate victory, Paxton, while leading his command during the second day of fierce fighting (May 3, 1863), was killed by enemy fire. He was only thirty-five years old.

Before his death near the Orange Court House at Chancellorsville, Paxton composed some seventy-five letters to his wife, Mary Neill Gentry, between 21 April 1861 and 17 April 1863. The bulk of these letters is of a personal nature between husband and wife; to wit, business matters concerning the farm and the crops, his poor eyesight (which forced him to abandon his law practice), requests for additional clothing and for purely personal effects such as his wife's "likeness" (which editor John, as a young child, broke) and a revealing insight into the solid marriage the two Virginians had established, as the reader hears the oft-repeated refrain of both soldier and wife chiding one another for not writing more often or more romantically. Indeed, in a letter dated August 3, 1861, Paxton informs his wife that her reproaches for his not writing at length about his husbandly love makes her a "mean sinner to think so. Just think how hard fought at Manassas to make you the widow of a dead man or the wife of a live one... If I was near enough I would hug you to death for such mean-ness." (p. 15)

Although sparing in his descriptions of the fearful engagements fought by the Stonewall Brigade, Paxton's letters voice a withering inditement of the "extortioners at home" whom Paxton considered "our worst enemies" by their withholding supplies from the Confederate Army in the hope of soaring prices. In a letter dated 20 April 1863, Paxton, the close friend of his commander, "Stonewall" Jackson, accurately labeled these civilians' actions as a "Famine of Christian charity and public spirit" and scathingly observes in the same letter that "Men wish to grow rich upon the miseries of their country, and there is no limit to their extortions." (p. 81)

The beauty and grace of this slim volume of Civil War letters lies in the catholicity of emotions expressed between husband and wife separated by the gulf of war and martial law, and in the acute observations of the horrors of war. Reading Paxton's letters to his wife Mary
is to glimpse some of the meaning in General Sherman's "War is Hell" truism. But more, *Civil War Letters* is a sensitive narrative of a husband who chose to become a soldier and die for his country (toward the end of his life, Frank Paxton became wholly fatalistic, believing with all certainty that he would fall in battle) and yet who longed for the embrace of his wife and the smiles of his young children.

Robert Davis  
Richland College


Lucy Breckinridge was nineteen years of age in the summer of 1862 when she determined to keep a journal of her activities on Grove Hill plantation. Her journal, edited by Mary D. Robertson of Armstrong State College and now published for the first time, provides an interesting and thoughtful view of the life of the aristocracy in the Shenandoah Valley during the Civil War. John T. Hubbell, editor of *Civil War History*, who writes the foreword to the published volume, compares Lucy's journal favorably with the well known *Diary from Dixie* and *Children of Pride* as important historical sources of social life in the Confederacy.

Lucy's journal is written in a clear, frank manner that allows readers to share the author's thoughts, hopes, fears, and uncertainties as the shadow of war and military defeat casts itself across life in the valley. The death of both an older and younger brother, as well as a sister-in-law and numerous friends and relatives during the war, brings the stark reality of war home to Lucy.

Although reared in an aristocratic southern family, Lucy had doubts concerning traditional southern institutions and values. Slavery she believed to be "a troublesome institution," which she wished could be abolished. The mistreatment of a servant child led Lucy to write "my blood boiled with indignation," and to conclude "I find I am a true abolitionist in heart." (p. 211).

Although she had serious doubts about her feelings toward the opposite sex, Lucy was courted by a succession of young beaus and in January, 1865 married Lieutenant Tommy Bassett of Washington County, Texas. Tragically, only five months after her marriage, Lucy died of typhoid fever. She was buried at Grove Hill along side her beloved younger brother John, who had been killed at Seven Pines.

Ralph A. Wooster  
Lamar University

The Great Texas Overland Expedition never reached Texas. This autumn-1863 effort to establish a Union presence in Texas barely emerged from the Louisiana swamps and soon stalled on—then receded from—that state's south-central prairies. Edmonds' book rescues this operation from undeserved obscurity. He summarizes the expedition's causes—more diplomatic than military—and provides more coverage to the operation's generalship: hesitant by Yankees Nathaniel Banks and William Franklin, daring by Confederates Dick Taylor and Tom Green. But the author concentrates on the experiences of junior officers, enlisted men, and civilians. Battles, skirmishes, marches, raids, camp life, hostile occupation appear through the perspective of these individuals.

Generous quotations from their accounts (many unpublished) successfully create Edmonds' desired sense of humanity for his narrative. To that end, his extensive use of personal manuscripts from many repositories and of claims records from the National Archives is particularly commendable. His felicitous style, moreover, makes for enjoyable reading.

Yet even this pleasant style is jarred by literally scores of errors of grammar, syntax, usage, and spelling-typography. Seventeen dangling modifiers are seventeen more than one anticipates from a professor. Nor does one expect a professor to confuse elementary words (“Conscious” for “Conscience”, “Contemptible” for “Contemptuous”, “Defensive” for “Defensible”, “Imminent” for “Eminent”, “Repulsive” for “Repulsing”, “Shuttering” for “Shuddering”). Some military ranks and unit designations (especially for artillery) also give him difficulty. He further errs in thinking Cuvier Grover was exiled, not promoted, to Louisiana. Most remarkably, he imagines that James Garfield was still with the 42nd Ohio by autumn, 1863, and that Taylor fought at Cedar Mountain, Second Manassas, and Fredericksburg. Finally, the maps—wartime and his own—are primitive and often barely legible.

Yet these deficiencies—serious as they are—do not outweigh the book's strengths: extensive research, pleasant style, and elucidation of a long-neglected campaign. Buffs will enjoy the book; scholars, though deploring its shortcomings, will appreciate its contributions.

Richard J. Sommers
U.S. Army Military History Institute
Richard Bennett Hubbard: An American Life. By Martha Anne Turner (Shoal Creek Publishers, Inc., P. O. Box 9737, Austin, Texas 78766), 1979. Photographs, Bibliography, Index. p. 191. $15.00.

For a long time there has been a need for a biography of Governor Richard Bennett Hubbard. Dr. Martha Turner has filled that need, compacting the high lights of his career into 170 pages of text. Born in Georgia, educated at Mercer University, the University of Virginia, and Harvard Law School, Hubbard migrated to Texas in 1853. By 1855 he had established a good reputation as a lawyer and orator, especially attacking the Know-Nothings. Despite some problems with date sequences on p. 13, it is clear that Hubbard championed James Buchanan for president, and increased his political stature as district attorney for the new Western District.

Hubbard opposed Houston and accepted the leadership of O. M. Roberts in the secession movement. Turner claimed too much in stating: “While Hubbard had been successful in winning Texas for the Confederacy . . .” Defeated for a seat in the new Congress, Hubbard volunteered to raise a regiment and served as its colonel. He saw action in the Battle of Mansfield. Readjustments in his personal life and Reconstruction in the South had begun, but Hubbard’s sadness was compounded by the death of his wife in January 1868, due, in part, to frequent childbearing.

Hubbard’s economic condition as planter, railroad promoter and lawyer improved by 1871, and he accepted the terms of the Amnesty Act of 1872. The next year he used his oratorical abilities to help unseat Governor Davis, and in January 1874 he became Lieutenant Governor. The depression of the 1870s caused him to sell part of his library and to delay paying doctor’s bills. He worked for railroad expansion, served as a Director for the Agricultural and Mechanical College, and became a Centennial Orator at Philadelphia in 1876. The author gives a good picture of Hubbard’s early days in the Governor’s Mansion. However, his differences with John H. Reagan over support for public education, problems with the prison system, an increasing crime wave, and “fascination” (p. 65) with railroad interests would be factors in his failure to be renominated in 1878.

Meanwhile, his political role at the national level was increased by his seconding speech for General Hancock at the Democratic National Convention. But he divided farther the political factions in Smith County by a speech lasting so long that his opponent for a seat in Congress, Charles Chilton, did not get to speak. Dr. Turner passed up an opportunity to clarify the backgrounds of the opposing political leaders in Smith County who would continue to influence Texas politics.
for many years. After Hubbard's failure to obtain a congressional seat, he continued to campaign for national candidates, including Grover Cleveland in 1884. His reward was the appointment as Minister to Japan.

Aided by family letters, Department of State Dispatches, and his book, *The United States in the Far East*, Dr. Turner has described the adjustments of the family to life in Japan, the summer cholera epidemics, the international tariff controversy, and finally his patience in negotiating a treaty of comity, commerce and navigation. With the advent of the Harrison administration, Hubbard left Japan where he had made many friends for the United States.

Dr. Turner is noted for her narrative style, and she has published a fast moving account of the highlights in the career of Governor and Ambassador Hubbard. While some references are cited, the usual footnotes are lacking. The author mentioned the "bibliographical assistance" provided by Dr. Jean Sutherlin Duncan who received her degree from Texas A and M University for her dissertation, "Richard Bennett Hubbard: Texas Politician and Diplomat". This reviewer is convinced that Dr. Duncan should have been given more credit for her contributions.

Robert C. Cotner
University of Texas at Austin


Of all the major conflicts in which the United States has participated since 1900, none has had such a varied impact upon those who shared the experience as did the First World War. The Great War, as Europeans labeled it, proved devastating to the great powers in Europe, whereas it marked our acknowledgement as a great power—in fact, the only major power to emerge from the war stronger than when it entered.

In this brief volume the rise of the United States to great power status is explained and narrated. The period covered is the 1890s through 1918. Most of the emphasis is on the military, except for the earlier period where the navy is given a share of the glory.

Adapted from the United States Army's *American Military History*, this overview does a remarkably good job of tracing the rise of the United States to a major military power. From a bungling and technically backward military establishment still geared to fighting Indians, the United States was able to mobilize several million soldiers during
1917 and 1918. What makes the book especially valuable is the discussion in Chapter 2 of the reorganization of the United States Army begun by Elihu Root and completed during World War I. This reorganization made possible the successful mobilization and military effort in Europe. Too often neglected in surveys of the era, its significance is clearly evident in this volume. Without it the United States could probably have been far less effective militarily.

Nothing here will be new to those versed in United States military history. It will, however, serve as a fine introduction to those seeking a short but comprehensive introduction to the topic. The maps supplement the text nicely and the illustrations suggest how rapidly military technology changed—from a Signal Corps balloon in Cuba to tanks and planes in France.

In a few places the editing appears to have been too precipitous. On the first page the justification for American willingness to support imperialism is too superficial even for such a work as this. In the discussion of the diplomatic exchanges between the United States and Spain after the destruction of Maine, the role of President William McKinley is shown as being much more forceful than many would portray his actions. Finally, and most serious in my opinion, is the section devoted to the so-called “Sussex pledge” made by Germany in 1916. What is missing is how Wilson gave Germany the ability to state when and how that pledge could be broken. Many historians believe that a great power should never allow its potential enemy to gain such an advantage.

Yet, these are not major faults, only ones which more careful editing might have improved. This will be a useful book for undergraduate courses and for those seeking a clearer understanding of our emergence as a great power. In the light of events during 1979 and early 1980 it might be especially revealing to show how differently we could and did react only seventy to eighty years ago.

William L. Taylor
Plymouth State College


The Triumph of Conservatism by Gabriel Kolko (1963) argued that the progressive era, long regarded as a time of reform, was in reality a period in which the regulated regulated themselves. Robert Wiebe's The Search for Order of 1967 emphasized the bureaucratiza-
tion and professionalization which progressive reformers sought. Finally, in 1972 David Thelan produced *The New Citizenship* which examined the role of consumer activism during the progressive era. H. Roger Grant's *Insurance Reform* attempts to combine these three divergent interpretations. According to Grant, insurance corporations, faced with pressure from angry consumers, initially attempted to quiet unrest by accepting demands for professionalization of the industry. Then, when consumers sought government regulation, the companies attempted to win regulation by the national rather than state and local governments because the national government would provide uniform rules. Also, one regulator was more susceptible to control than were the multitudinous state and local agencies.

Or necessity Grant does not even attempt to examine the full range of insurance. A study of the diverse types would be too fragmented to achieve any result. However, omission of marine and other forms of insurance is not a flaw because the two types of insurance examined by Grant—life and fire—were the dominant types in force, covering the greatest percentage of policyholders and bringing to the companies the predominant portion of their wealth. Also, abuses were most widespread in life and fire insurance.

Grant restricts the geographical area of his study as well. He examines reform efforts in New York, Texas, Wisconsin, Kansas, and Missouri. These states consistently led in the introduction of anti-trust measures and legislation to have the state establish rates. Thus, the study examines all of the major reform impulses.

The work concludes with an examination of reform-minded insurance commissioners and with an afterword which brings the study into relevance for the present day. Discussing the need for renewed consumer movements during the 1970s, Grant notes that "Consumer conquests over an industry are never total or complete" (p. 169).

Grant takes an essentially unexciting topic, insurance reform, and manages to create an interesting work. Based on his dissertation, the study displays exhaustive research and comes alive under the masterful hand of a fine scholar. *Insurance Reform* merits scrutiny by all scholars of the progressive era.

J. Herschel Barnhill
Oklahoma State University
Prejudice and the Old Politics: The Presidential Election of 1928.


Students of American history and followers of presidential politics will find this work quite intriguing. It is clearly a revisionist interpretation of the importance of the 1928 presidential election which has heretofore been regarded as a forerunner of the new alliance of labor, ethnic groups, farm interests and other groups put together by Franklin D. Roosevelt and subsequently used by the Democrats for over a generation. But the work goes further: it challenges the traditional explanation of Hoover's victory; it challenges the "critical election theory" and states that "no election between 1916 and 1940 qualifies as a critical election . . . ." (p. 201). Lichtman questions, therefore, the conventional wisdom of political scholars as well known as Samuel Lubell, Richard Hofstadter and Daniel Boorstein who set forth the concept of pluralist politics which began in 1928 with Al Smith's campaign. To conduct his research, the author used the relatively new quantitative tools of historical methodology plus traditional documentary interpretation. Methodologists should, therefore, be content that the subject has been examined thoroughly and not shortchanged by any bias in use and assessment of data.

To begin with, Lichtman wrote a prologue and introductory chapter. The former characterized Herbert Hoover and Al Smith while the latter summarizer the historiography of the 1928 election. Traditionally scholars interpreted the contest as a fight between Catholic-wet-foreign-urban Americans and Protestant-dry-native-rural Americans. According to Lichtman these issues were important, but the overriding consideration was the religious question. "Despite the storm and stress produced by religion during the campaign, most historians have not considered it an especially significant influence on the vote for president, but religious conflict occupied center stage in the competition between Smith and Hoover." (pp. 40, 76). The issues of Republican prosperity and rural-urban tension were not ignored by Lichtman but rather relegated to a secondary position, a reversal of the standard account of the election.

To examine further the importance of 1928 as a critical election, Lichtman looked at the voting record of women and blacks who allegedly shifted to the Democratic party that year. He broke new ground because the voting of neither had ever been considered separately, but he concluded that no shift occurred. "A larger proportion of black voters supported the Democratic nominee in 1928 than in earlier contests, but a majority still favored Herbert Hoover." (p. 144).
No apparent shift was evident among women voters either. To insist that no critical election occurred from 1916 to 1940 may bother some readers, and the lack of a clear definition of his own perception of a critical election will enhance that possibility. He described the 1932 election as “electoral change during the 1930s [that] was primarily influenced by the response of Herbert Hoover and Franklin D. Roosevelt to challenges posed by the Great Depression.” (p. 201). Isn’t that how voters would act in any critical election—to the responses of the candidates to the particular problems at hand? Some may also disagree with the assertion that anti-Catholicism did not lose its salience after Hoover’s victory because of evidence in the 1930s and 1960. To be sure, anti-Catholicism was quite evident in the latter case, but to deny that it had mellowed is questionable. The quantitative data, furthermore, excluded the eleven former Confederate states, and while the author explained his reasons for the exclusion, some readers will question that decision and the book’s hypothesis as well.

Doubts over methodology will not diminish the contribution of the study to the historiography of political history. It shows original research and courage to question conventional wisdom. An impressive bibliography that is comprehensive in both primary and secondary sources reinforces the author’s contention that his conclusions were not based solely on quantitative data. For political historians, Prejudice and the Old Politics will be quite valuable.

D. Clayton Brown
Texas Christian University


When most people think of the “power fight” in twentieth century America they concentrate on images of Wendell Willkie, Franklin Roosevelt, George W. Norris, the Tennessee Valley authority, and the recurring conflicts between advocates of public and private power development. D. Clayton Brown describes another lengthy and perhaps equally important battle which sometimes was involved with and often paralleled this better-known struggle. This was the movement to extend electrical service to the American farmer.

While the contest operated at the national level, the areas most affected physically were the South and Midwest which had by far the lowest rates of rural electrification. As late as 1920 only 1% of southern farmers and 10% of those in the Midwest had access to electrical ser-
vice, and there was no appreciable improvement by 1930. In fact, until the World War II era rural families in these areas enjoyed few of the technological conveniences of the modern world. The Rural Electrification Administration was largely responsible for changing that situation.

During the 1920s plans were advanced to extend electrical service into rural areas under the auspices of private utilities companies, but they foundered on the problems of anticipated low usage and scattered clientele. Disappointed by the private companies' failure to take action, some began to advocate the development of rural cooperatives, and a continuing split emerged between those who wanted private development and others who believed public action the only feasible solution. While paralleling the battles surrounding the government's facilities at Muscle Shoals, Alabama, it is important to note that the rural electrification struggle at this point involved distribution rather than the generation of power. The failures of private efforts contrasted sharply with the apparent successes of public electrification in Canada and Europe and added fuel to the controversy. Differences in priorities also emerged: should the nation concentrate on a coordinated power system that would emphasize industrial and urban service and supply farms as a by-product, or should top priority be upon extending power as rapidly as possible into rural areas?

Creation of the Rural Electrification Administration by President Roosevelt in 1935 did not preclude cooperation with private companies, but the animosity of the utilities toward REA led its administration to necessarily depend upon rural cooperatives in fulfilling its mission. Acting as a work relief agency as well as a power administration unit, REA loaned money to cooperatives and helped to create a system whereby poor rural customers could buy appliances on credit and thus increase their electrical usage. In most cases the major benefits to rural families were not in the work area but in the home through electric irons, refrigerators, lights, running water, radios, etc., which improved the quality of rural life. The cooperatives built their lines for lower prices and offered cheaper rates than private utilities, and generally performed capably despite efforts by the private companies to build "spite" lines and drain off the best business areas in the rural regions and to discredit the cooperatives' performance.

REA achieved permanence in 1936 with its Congressional authorization. At this time Sam Rayburn moved into the forefront as the agency looked toward power generation as well as distribution, culminating in the movement to build new dams in the southeast and southwest and create "little TVAs." Rayburn was a leading figure during the post-war era in assuring that rural cooperatives would share the power generated by new government dams. Realizing that in the con-
servative post-war political climate “little TVAs” were a vain hope, he successfully pushed Congress to create working arrangements between private and cooperative utilities to extend rural service and achieve maximum efficiency.

Brown's treatment is thoroughly documented, well-organized, and clearly written. He properly places the battles in broader national and ideological contexts, and his analyses seem sound. This book is well worth the attention of any reader interested in not only the power question but in the government-industry relations, political history, and agricultural history for the United States from the 1920s through the 1950s.

James E. Fickle
Memphis State University

Captain M. T. Gonzaullas, Lone Wolf: The Only Texas Ranger of Spanish Descent. By Brownson Maisch. (Shoal Creek Publishers, Inc., P. O. Box 9737, Austin, Texas 78766), 1980. Photographs, Bibliographical Notes, Index. p. 244. $12.50.

Manuel T. “Lone Wolf” Gonzaullas was already a legendary figure when I first began doing research on the Texas Rangers in the mid-1960s. Men on the force held him in the utmost respect, sometimes to the point of awe and reverence. They singled out his flair for the dramatic with pride, especially since he backed such actions with “sixth sense” perception and well-calculated plans. Although utterly fearless, he never led his men recklessly or proposed ideas which might endanger lives needlessly.

Yet no matter how outstanding a law enforcement officer he may have been, Gonzaullas did himself and the Rangers one regrettable disservice. He intended to write an autobiography and therefore did not allow a trained historian to interview him, to probe his memory, to preserve the record of his life and era. As a result Brownson Maisch, author of the award winning Indianola: The Mother of Western Texas (1977), was somewhat handicapped in this effort. Although having access to five voluminous scrapbooks and 500 photographs, he lacked the necessary data for a definitive biography. For instance, he discussed the Santa Claus robbery at Cisco in 1927, the mob murder of a Negro prisoner at Sherman in 1930, the Beaumont race riot in 1943—all interesting stories—but did not explain Gonzaullas’ role, at least not in any significant detail.

While some readers will enjoy this biography because it relates events of a fascinating life, this reviewer is somewhat disappointed.
Gonzauillas seems to be merely a man on paper, one who performs heroic deeds, yet who has no personality, no humanness, no breath and life. He merely completes assignments—raiding stills and gambling joints, taming oil boomtowns, arresting wrongdoers—with routine thoroughness. He was a much more complex man than the author is able to recount.

Ben Procter
Texas Christian University


This is a second edition of a work first published in 1959 and in the main repeats almost verbatim the text of the original. While some petroleum production statistics have been updated, a lively and absorbing narrative has been retold involving such oil pioneers as Mike Benedum, Anthony Lucas, Ed Doheny, Harry Sinclair, Wallace Pratt, Ernest Marland, and many others. There is an extensive examination of the economic contributions, as well as idiosyncracies and foibles, of these wildcatters. The author also keeps her study within a larger historical framework with an analysis of ongoing technological and scientific developments contributing to advanced oil exploration methods.

The last and concluding chapter of this edition, however, has been rewritten to reflect recent problems within the American petroleum industry. This same chapter of the 1959 edition ended on a generally positive note with the industry then celebrating a century of impressive accomplishment. While the future of the industry seemed bright, the author cautioned that the spectre of increased and damaging governmental regulation might cloud the industry's future.

In this rewritten chapter of the new edition, that dire prophesy, in the author's view, has come into being. Her extensive analysis of events subsequent to 1959 indicates that energy policies of the federal government involving restrictive taxation, price fixing, and excessive ecological concerns have hampered the industry's domestic development. This has forced greater reliance upon foreign oil and strengthened the economic and political power of the OPEC cartel.

This is a familiar story, perhaps told with a degree of bias springing from Ruth Knowles' long family association with the oil industry. Nevertheless it is a convincing and accurate one and reason enough to appreciate and to read this new edition of her work.

John O. King
University of Houston

With Marxists And Utopias In Texas Ernest G. Fischer has placed the founding of Texas within the context of clashing world ideologies and social revolutions. Not all who came to Texas were red-blooded American cowboys. Some were people in search of a collectivist utopia. Their settlements included the pirate colony of Jean Laffite, Victor Considerant's pursuit of Icaria (the name of a fictitious communist utopia) and the Sanctified Sisters' perfect society without men.

Some of the utopias involved Texas with the revolutionary and social upheavals that engulfed Europe. One was conceived by Napoleon's exiled lieutenants as the basis for a Napoleonic empire in the southwest as they planned to rescue Bonaparte from St. Helena. Robert Owen, fleeing the English industrial revolution, wanted to create a perfect society in the Texas wilderness. The German nobility aided the emigration of German youth to Texas to relieve revolutionary pressures in Germany. And Icaria grew out of the unfulfilled promises of the French revolution of 1830.

The term Marxism is misleading with reference to the settlements. Vestiges of capitalism are often apparent. Laffite's colony on San Luis (Galveston) Island was a profit-sharing contractual order. Icaria was financed by investors seeking 6% interest on their investment, just as the German nobility made possible the settlement of Bettina. The Sanctified Sisters of Bell County bought and operated hotels for profit. But Owen believed man was shaped by his environment and that the state should control that environment. The Mormons, seeking refuge in Texas, operated on the principle of "from each according to his ability, to each according to his need."

Still unanswered is just how close Laffite was to the work of Engels and Marx. Yet the book is an interesting account of this aspect of the development of Texas.

Dave Dickey
Mt. Enterprise, Texas


Eighter From Decatur is a book for people whose backgrounds lie in small towns across the rural South. In the Foreword, Joe B. Frantz,
who was reared in Weatherford, suggests that small towns are a good place to find sanctuary and security in youth but are too confining as homes for life. Apparently Jim Tom Barton would agree. From his vantage point in Austin where he is a certified public accountant, Barton engagingly recounts fond memories of his boyhood in Decatur during the years around World War I.

Barton does not attempt a narrative organized along chronological lines or pursue any particular theme. Instead, his book is a series of largely independent chapters on such topics as “Customs, Manners, and Chores”, “Religion”, “Health Care and Funerals”, and finally “This and That”. The longest and perhaps best chapter deals with everyday life at the farm home of his mother’s family, the Perrins, on Sycamore Creek in northeast Wise County. From Barton’s description, the family, originally from Kentucky, worked hard and lived reasonably well by the standards of that day. But in 1918 they moved west to Haskell County in search of greater prosperity. It would seem that the author experienced first-hand something of the pioneering spirit of nineteenth century Texas.

In general, Barton tells the story of his Decatur boyhood for its own sake. He cannot resist, however, making a few judgments on modern times. After describing “Playing and Fighting” in Decatur, for example, he almost feels sorry for “present-day boys who are supervised and coached by adults at expensive summer camps and in the little leagues of various sports.” (p. 74). The chapter on “Gun Culture” concludes with the observation that his generation could not conceive of the government threatening gun ownership in any form.

“Editorial” comments are to be expected in personal accounts of the past. They point up how rapidly the conditions of life have changed, especially in the twentieth century. And yet, as Professor Frantz suggests, people change much more slowly if at all. Many children in Decatur today probably do lead more regimental lives than did Jim Tom Barton and his brother, but they still have to learn about playing and fighting, about cooperation and courage, for themselves. Children grow up today in inner cities under circumstances indescribably different from those in rural small towns, and yet some day there will be memoirs with titles such as “Making it in the Fifth Ward”. And these books, like *Eighter From Decatur*, will be valuable testimonials to a time when things were different and to our need to remember those times.

Randolph B. Campbell
North Texas State University

It has been more than twenty-five years since the Supreme Court ruled on the historic Brown versus Topeka Board of Education. Yet, according to such historians as George Tindall, the Second Reconstruction only slowly attracted the attention of scholars as a field of study. However, the decade of the 1970s saw increased interest in the area. From Brown to Bakke is thus a welcomed addition to the growing list of studies on the civil rights movement.

J. Harvie Wilkinson, III, masterfully, in indepth fashion, traces the evolution of the court's decisions vis a vis civil rights issues since 1954. The study, broken into four parts, analyzes first the Brown decision and the ramifications of it. The author sees the court as rushing to the forefront of the civil rights movement. However, in part II on southern school desegregation, he notes vacillation on the court's part until the era 1968 to 1973 when it moved ahead rapidly. Part III analyzes the busing issue, and the author maintains that the court largely only skirted the issue. Finally in the Bakke decision, Wilkinson again points out the vacillation of the court in leaving issues such as "affirmative action" and "reverse discrimination" in a virtual state of limbo. Thus, the author suggests that the court erred on busing and on Bakke.

Overall, this is an excellent volume which highlights both the "strengths" and "weaknesses" of the court. Moreover, cases are considered in their own social milieu. The court at times is cast as forceful in its position on civil rights but at other times as tentative. Likewise, the transition from the Warren court to the Burger court is highlighted.

From Brown to Bakke has few flaws and has been stylishly produced by Oxford University Press. The author does not include a bibliography—which would have been helpful—but he does provide a copious, detailed fifty-page notes section and an adequate index. This volume belongs on the shelves of all serious scholars interested in the civil rights struggle.

James Smallwood
Oklahoma State University
Have We Overcome? Race Relations Since Brown. Edited by Michael V. Namorato. (University Press of Mississippi, Jackson, Mississippi 39200), 1979. Illustrations and Notes. p. 232. $15.00; $7.95, Paper.

Beginning in 1975, the University of Mississippi inaugurated the Chancellor's Symposium on Southern History. Each fall since then prominent scholars have gathered at the University of Mississippi to address some aspect of Southern history. In 1978, seven such scholars dealt with race relations since the Brown Supreme Court decision of 1954. The individuals invited to participate were: C. Eric Lincoln, professor of religion, Duke University; Vincent Harding, director of the Institute of the Black World and oral history member, Duke University; Henry Levine, professor of education at Stanford University; William Leuchtenburg, professor of history, Columbia University; Robert Wiebe, professor of history, Northwestern University; Morton Horwitz, professor of law, Harvard Law School; and Lerone Bennett, senior editor of Ebony. Michael V. Namorato from the University of Mississippi edited this volume of lectures from the symposium.

Each speaker was given a broad topic to discuss and asked to look at race relations today to determine how far we have come in America since 1954 and to appraise our future. The topics included: black culture and the Brown decision; the black community and the Brown decision; civil rights since Brown; attempts to legislate prejudice since Brown; white attitude changes since Brown; and legal questions raised by Brown and Bakke. The essays are highly informative and thought provoking. On the central question "Have We Overcome?" which was addressed in detail by Lerone Bennett, the speakers all agree—we have come a long way toward overcoming racism, but still have much further to go.

Billy D. Ledbetter
Cooke County College

Buffalo Bill: His Family, Friends, Fame, Failures, and Fortunes.

For some generations, William Frederick "Buffalo Bill" Cody symbolized the late 19th century "macho man". A man who parlayed his experiences as a scout and buffalo hunter into entertainment, riches, glamour, and fame, Cody loved the publicity, endeavored to perpetuate it, and became a legend in his own time. So successful was he that years after his death in 1917 numerous books continue to depict his feats.
Nellie Snyder Yost offers a different viewpoint from the many accounts—that of the intimate personal side of the man as indicated by the sub-title: family, friends, failures and fortunes. Relying upon solid research in little used materials, Yost's vantage point expresses that of North Platte, Nebraska, the legal residence of Buffalo Bill for most of his adult life. In Nebraska, Yost found Cody to be a born promoter, a generous man who gave lavishly to friends and causes, but with weaknesses. While he loved children, he exhibited little responsibility in the upbringing of his own. His Wild West show kept him on the road, and his wife Louisa went excessively long periods without her man that led to severed marital relations. Cody made money, but his limited business talents caused him to spend it even faster. The macho man's fondness for alcohol and alleged promiscuity added additional stress. Yost has presented the evidence for such and adds sympathetic, unconvincing, analyses for Cody's behavior.

Of equal importance, Yost presents vivid descriptions about North Platte's reaction to its famous citizen and his Scout's Rest Ranch. As one might expect, not all viewed Cody with admiration, but surprisingly, he had numerous friends.

Yost demonstrates how marvelously complex Cody was, rather than being a simpleton. That's good. But her analysis of Cody's leadership in irrigating arid lands of the West is hardly convincing. More important, Cody used his western experiences to popularize the West, bringing joy to thousands of Americans, and endured personal hardships equivalent to those of today's soap operas.

The author has examined the prevailing interpretations of Cody, and added an additional dimension to the best previously written study: Don Russell's *The Lives and Legends of Buffalo Bill*. Yost has written a fascinating book for those interested in the history of entertainment, the west, social history, or for general readers in search of an interesting story.

Irvin M. May, Jr.
Texas A&M University


Jones notes in his preface that the original intent of his study was to produce a manual for the management and preservation of local
records. The study evolved, however, into a work that serves as a worthy introduction to records management and research in local records.

The work is divided into two sections. Part I contains information on managing local records, while Part II details how local records can be used to produce scholarly research. While Part I is geared to the local official who has custody of the records, the section should be read by all who have worked or are considering working with local records. The efficient management of records, be they inactive or current files, can be a real boon to the researcher.

It is Part II, however, that is of most importance to the local researcher. In this section, Jones makes a strong case that local history, once looked down upon by scholars, is a valid area of study and can be improved upon by a better understanding of local governments and a greater utilization of the vast numbers of records they retain or generate.

Local governmental units in the United States are numerous and complex and Jones includes informative sketches on their origins, development, and powers. In regard to the records filed with or generated by the various units of government, Jones discusses a number of record groups, including vital statistics, property, tax, court, election, and school records, and provides examples on how these primary source materials can be used in studies of individuals or the historical, cultural, social, or economic development of a particular locality or region. Jones also provides some useful tips to facilitate research in local depositories, which, as Jones notes, are quite different from the normal academic facilities.

Jones' work will probably not provide any new management information to the professional archivist or records manager, nor reveal new sources or methods to the experienced researcher. The work will, however, be of great value to the researcher not well versed in the intricacies of local governments, the primary source material they house and produce, and the potential of the material for elevating and expanding the study of local history.

James Riney
Texas County Records Inventory Project
Register of Ancestors: The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in the Commonwealth of Virginia. (Colonial Dames in Virginia, South Wilton Road, Richmond, Virginia 23226), 1979. Index. p. 121. $15.00, Paper; $20.00, Hardcover.

This register contains the names of those men who have been accepted as ancestors by The Colonial Dames of America in the Commonwealth of Virginia. It is arranged in alphabetical order by surname of ancestor. It gives date of birth and death, name of marriage partner or partners, and service. To be eligible for membership, the applicant must show that the said ancestor held one or more of the following offices: Historic Founder who came to Virginia between 1607 and 1620; member of the Virginia Company; signer of the Charters of April 10, 1606, May 23, 1609 or May 12, 1612; be a civil officer in the Virginia government; a commissioned officer of the Virginia forces who served under the Crown 1607 to July 5, 1776; a Gentleman Justice of the Virginia Counties to July 5, 1776; a Judge of the Superior Court of Law and Equity; a Commissary of the Bishop of London in Virginia; or a Trustee of the College of William and Mary; a member of the Revolutionary Convention of 1773-1776; member of the General Committee of Safety 1775-1776; member of the Continental Congress of 1774, 1775 or 1776; Signer of the Declaration of Independence; or an official of other colonial States, accepted by Colonial Dames Societies in those States as being recognized qualifiers.

This book is a valuable reference work because of the wealth of information it contains on early inhabitants in the colonies.

Carolyn Ericson, Curator
Stone Fort Museum

This volume contains records of the descendants of Thomas and Susannah Blakey of Christ Church Parish, Middlesex County, Virginia: There were at least three Blakey families who immigrated from England to the colonies. Thomas Blakey and his son Thomas came from Cumberland, England to Middlesex County, Virginia before 1686 and this book contains only the descendants of this family.

The format and numbering system are easy to follow. Each child is assigned a number of his own. Those who have descendants who are contained in this book have a plus (+) by their number. By this method, it is an easy task to follow the family members to the present generations or to trace it backward to the immigrant ancestor.

Mr. Blakey began collecting information for this book in the 1930s and has done a tremendous amount of research collecting original documents and information on the descendants of this family who have spread all over the nation. In the foreword there is an explanation of the abbreviations used for the sources included in the book. This list takes the place of a bibliography which is usually found in the back of a book.

This volume is recommended for anyone who is a descendant of this family and would be an excellent addition to any genealogical library.

Carolyn Ericson, Curator
Stone Fort Museum