BOOK REVIEWS


During the 1980s, French sociologist Maurice Halbwachs and French social scientist Pierre Nora developed the concept of "collective memory," an idea that swept the academic world and seemed particularly apt for Texas. Gregg Cantrell and Elizabeth Hayes Turner brought together eleven eminent and entertaining authors to produce collective memories that often challenge factual histories.

The articles point out that historians are often ignored by the Texas public who shaped their own version of their pasts. Articles focus on battles fought by the Daughters of the Republic of Texas over who would restore the Alamo, the United Daughters of the Confederacy in their attempts to commemorate Confederate heroes, and the attempts by the Ku Klux Klan to Americanize their message in the 1920s. Comic books and historical paintings depict the racial conflict between Anglos and Mexican-Americans, but these are counter-posed in a chapter on the planned Tejano monument on the Capitol grounds. Two excellent essays focus on the views of African Americans on the celebration of Juneteenth, and the conflict between two generations of African Americans over the importance and relevance of the Civil Rights movement. The public memory can also dismiss and destroy famous men and myths. The last chapter, however, holds out hope for historians while admitting the strength of public memory.

These essays provide fascinating insights into the public perception of history. Historians may write, but Texans of all races will continue to maintain their own "collective memory."

Caroline C. Crimm
Sam Houston State University


This comprehensive dictionary of Native American placenames in the United States collects 12,500 entries from 350 sources and brings them under scrutiny of twelve consulting editors representing scholarship in American Indian linguistics. The result creates an invaluable source for historians, geographers, and onomasticians.
William Bright, editor of several linguistics journals and professor emeritus of linguistics and anthropology at UCLA, employed a computerized data base to broaden the scope to a point not previously possible. Although the concentration of Native American placenames in Alaska dominates the study, forty-nine states are surveyed. Hawaii, where Bright considered indigenous language names to be Native American, was excluded because it would have been a duplication of the state’s excellent placenames dictionary.

Each entry includes the headword (Nacogdoches), state location on a county, parish, or sectional map (TX, Nacogdoches County), pronunciation, etymology (the plural of Nacogdoche, a division of the Caddo people), source of information, occurrence in other states, and related names.

In addition to expected non-English words from Native American languages (Tawakoni, Navasota, Pottawatomie), are loan translations attempting to reproduce the meaning of the source rather than to replicate sounds (Medicine Lodge), invented words (Texarkana), bogus words (Beechatuda Draw, NM), and folk etymologies (Seneca), representing a phonetic and semantic reformation of the Native American name. Seneca was originally a derogatory word meaning “wood eaters” applied to the Senecas by Algonquian neighbors and later adopted by white settlers as a placename referring to the ancient Roman philosopher and dramatist.

Some names are rather pure Native American forms while others might be viewed as Spanish or French words originating with Indian languages. Thus, Coyote is a Spanish word from Nahuatl (Aztec) coyotl.

Most controversial of all the placenames is Squaw, being replaced on federal maps because some Native American groups consider it offensive. Bright explored the linguistic tempest in “Sociolinguistics of ‘the S-Word,’ Squaw in American Placenames” in Names quarterly, Vol. 48 (2000), pp. 207-216.

As comprehensive and valuable as this dictionary is, additional Native American placenames await retrieval from sources such as The New Handbook of Texas and other state studies.

Fred Tarpley
Campbell, Texas


Written for a middle school student, It Happened on the Underground Railroad is one of a series of “It happened...” and the third by Wagner. After an introduction to the concept of an underground railroad freeing slaves prior to 1865, and a map showing some of the routes, the author provides twenty-three stories of slaves who were able to escape from the South. Although each
is written in a narrative style, which will appeal to its intended audience, each account is based on fact.

Included among the stories is that of Margaret Garner, a slave from Boone County, Kentucky, who cut the throat of her daughter and attempted to kill both her sons because, she said, "she would rather kill her children and herself than return to ... evils of slavery." She and her husband and in-laws, all of whom had tried to escape, were arrested and tried in Cincinnati, Ohio. The family’s attorneys, as well as Governor Salmon Chase, tried to prevent the Garners’ return to Kentucky and their enslaved state. They were not successful and their owners sold them all into the Deep South, a sure sentence of early death. If Margaret Garner’s story sounds familiar it is because Ohio-born author Toni Morrison drew on it to produce her Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, *Beloved*, in 1987.

All the stories do not end so tragically. "Read All About it," involves the escape of a young Maryland woman, Lear Green, who spent eighteen hours in an old steamer trunk aboard ship from the Chesapeake Bay to Philadelphia. Aided in her escape by her future mother-in-law, who was a free woman living in New York, Lear so impressed the chairman of the Philadelphia Anti-Slavery Society that he had a photograph made of her exiting from the trunk.

Wagner makes no effort to sugarcoat the horrors of slavery, but she does provide her young readers with examples of courageous men and women, black and white, whose names – Harriet Tubman, Frederick Douglas, Sojourner Truth, abolitionist Levi Coffin – are familiar to anyone knowledgeable about this period of American history. None of the escapees or their benefactors are Texans. Most Texas slaves who were able to escape headed for Mexico and their individual stories are largely unknown.

Gail K Beil
Marshall, Texas


*Love Cemetery*, a cemetery near Marshall, Texas, for forty years was unused, unkempt, and closed to the citizens, mostly black, who wished to enter. Interred in the cemetery were black slaves and the descendants of slaves. *Love Cemetery: Unburying the Secret History of Slaves*, depicts the personal journey of its white author, China Galland, as she and a small group of black and white acquaintances and friends sought to open, reclaim, and re-consecrate the cemetery. For the author the effort was partially a labor of expiation, as Galland earlier had discovered instances of mistreatment of African Americans while researching her own family history in 1993.
Historians will have mixed reactions to the book. It is a lively written story, an interesting account, and a personal discussion well worth reading. It also is filled with historical vignettes from the middle passage of the slave trade, slavery in Texas (Galland refers to Randolph B. Campbell’s *An Empire for Slavery*), the late nineteenth century, the civil rights movement, and the present. For the historian, chapter four, “Borderlands, Badlands, and the Neutral Ground,” is the most historically complete chapter in the book. On the other hand the book is not intended to be a history, as the author writes, “certain names of people and places in this book have been changed” (p. 7).

Since Love Cemetery is located near Marshall, Texas, Galland also mentions Wiley College, a black college in Marshall, prominent black Marshallites Melvin B. Tolson and James Farmer, and recent ETHA stalwarts, Gail and Greg Beil, in her book.

This account of the opening of Love Cemetery takes place during the years from 2003 to 2006, and ultimately, despite set backs and difficult work, Love Cemetery was cleaned up, re-consecrated, and opened for visitors. However, in its many manifestations, China Galland reminds us, “the work of Love was ongoing” (p. 230).

Bruce A. Glasrud
Seguin, Texas


The reviewer approached this publication with high hopes that some of our Northeast Texas history would be found as part of Miller County, Arkansas. After all Jonesboro, a community in the original Red River County, Texas, had been the county seat for Miller County, Arkansas, and the Sheriff from Little Rock, Arkansas, tried unsuccessfully to collect taxes in Red River County. In fact, little in this publication is applicable and probably none could be recognized as Texas history without a good foundation of knowledge.

Lovely County and Miller County were both located in the eastern portion of what is now the State of Oklahoma and were ground zero for the forced relocation of the Choctaw and Cherokee tribes.

“Miller County” was reformed several times in the nineteenth century by the Arkansas Territorial legislature in different and confusing locations in what are now the states of Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Texas. The current “Miller County” is the southwestern-most county in Arkansas in which the eastern part of Texarkana is located.

Early in the nineteenth century everything south of the Red River belonged to Spain and thereafter to Mexico by virtue of The Louisiana
Purchase and the Adams-Onis Treaty of 1819 that set the Red River as the boundary. This remained true until shortly after Texas Independence in 1836, when Arkansas relinquished its claim in Northeast Texas.

Americans were resettled from the Lovely and Miller county areas and received certificates for resettlement after a problematic period in the Miller County area. Each settler had to file a “deposition” with the United States Claims Office to obtain a resettlement certificate. These depositions contain valuable information about each of the filers and there are two or three names in this publication that are recognized as pioneer settlers who moved south across the Red River.

Another chapter extracts information from the files of The Arkansas Gazette, a valuable research source for historians but, again, there are but vague references to our Texas history.

This is an excellent resource book for information on the history of the eastern portion of the present State of Oklahoma, the Trail of Tears, and the Americans who were relocated.

Jim D. Lovett
Clarksville, Texas


The Mexican War was the proving ground for many young men who later used their experiences as generals in the Civil War. Kevin Dougherty, a retired United States Army officer and lecturer at the University of Southern Mississippi, explores the Mexican War experiences of twenty-six Civil War leaders, thirteen Union and thirteen Confederate, and examines the impact the earlier war had on their leadership abilities during the later conflict. The men examined are prominent figures in the Civil War such as Ulysses S. Grant, George B. McClellan, William T. Sherman, Robert E. Lee, Jefferson Davis, and Thomas Jonathan “Stonewall” Jackson.

Dougherty divides his book into three parts. The first part examines the American concept of combat before the Mexican War and in the decade leading to the Civil War. This establishes a context to examine the lessons the men learned and what influenced them before both wars. In the following two parts, the author examines the experiences of Union and Confederate generals. Also included are some useful appendices that list all the Civil War generals who served in the Mexican War.

The book presents an interesting perspective on Civil War leadership. It is strictly military history and it could be argued that Dougherty wrote it for a military audience. At the same time, it compiles a collection of human experi-
ences and how they can be used to examine warfare. The book also provides a larger view of the Civil War because the individuals examined produced or represented the resistance to the major strategic and tactical changes that developed during the war. The book would be useful as a reference of leadership experiences and would be of interest to both scholars and enthusiasts of the Civil War.

Charles D. Grear
Prairie View A&M University


In July 1860 tensions were high and so were temperatures in north Texas. Conflict with Mexicans and Indians was ongoing. Southern firebrands and Northern abolitionists agitated for radical alteration of the American union as the presidential election drew near. Many Texans needed little push to fall into hysteria. When Dallas and other north Texas communities inexplicably caught fire and anti-union editors spread rumors of burning and poisoning, Texans perceived an abolitionist-inspired slave rising. They reacted with vigilantism and lynching of black and white alike, and exiled strangers from the state on pain of death. The fever spread through the lower South, fueled by newspaper rumors and fictions.

Unionist and Northern papers countered the rumors, but anti-unionists rejected their "lies" and the Yankee-inspired theory that newfangled matches were combusting spontaneously due to the extreme heat.

The panic faded after local newspapers reported that cities supposedly burned to the ground were instead thriving unscathed. The cost in lives was greater than the rumored loss of property, but the greater cost was that the panic shifted Texas – and Southern - sentiment to disunion.

*Texas Terror* provides the first book-length treatment of this in the panic of 1860. It tightly documents the role of matches as cause of the fires. Reynolds also places Texas into a broader regional and national context and makes a compelling argument that the non-existent slave rising, not John Brown's raid, shifted Texas from union to secession. Solidly documented and crisply written, *Texas Terror* is a significant addition to the literature on the Civil War.

John H. Barnhill
Houston, Texas

T. Lindsay Baker has edited and written many excellent historical accounts during his career as a professional historian and Confederate Guerrilla is no exception. Baker has done an extraordinary job of editing Joseph Bailey’s memoir that tells the story of one Confederate soldier’s experiences as a Guerrilla fighter in Arkansas during the latter part of the Civil War. The memoir focuses on various aspects of Bailey’s life, including his early childhood, service in the Sixteenth Arkansas Infantry, and his experiences in the battles at Pea Ridge in Arkansas, Farmington, Iuka, and Corinth in Mississippi, and at the siege of Port Hudson in Louisiana. The bulk of the Bailey’s account details his career as an insurgent in northwestern Arkansas between September 1863 and October 1864, when Bailey and other guerrillas harassed and hindered the operations of Union troops stationed in the state. The irregulars’ tactics were relatively simple. They conducted hit-and-run strikes against Union soldiers, then retreated to the safety of Arkansas’s rugged terrain. When in the northern part of the state, the guerrillas operated in the rugged mountains, and when in the south, they hid in swamps. Though the guerrillas never won major battles, but they were successful in tying up substantial numbers of Union troops who could have served on other fronts.

Civil War scholars will find Bailey’s memoir valuable, because it is one of the few first-hand accounts of guerrilla activities during the war. Most irregular troops refused to write an account of their wartime experiences because they feared that their brutal actions during the war would lead to retribution. T. Lindsey Baker is to be commended for his editing of the original typescript. The memoir is easy to read and to follow. Baker also deserves praise for documenting the events mentioned in Bailey’s account with over fifty pages of comprehensive notes.

Kenneth W. Howell
Prairie View A&M University


This book chronicles the life of Juan Nepomucino Cortina, the border caudillo who influenced South Texas politics from the 1840s into the 1870s. After fighting against American forces during the Mexican War, Cortina could not reconcile himself to a peace which brought much of his family’s land into the United States and he despised the Brownsville, Texas, legal community, which he believed was stealing land from Mexican Texans. In July 1859
Cortina killed Brownsville city sheriff Robert Shears after witnessing the brutal arrest of a fellow Hispanic. In September 1859 Cortina, with seventy men, seized Brownsville and killed five men, but many of his intended victims fled or went into hiding. This first Cortina War ended in February 1860, when Texas Rangers entered Mexico and defeated Cortina’s forces.

Cooperating with the North during the American Civil War, Cortina invaded South Texas, initiating the second Cortina War, but was defeated by Confederate forces. In May 1862, he joined Juarez’s Liberals opposing the French but then briefly cooperated with the imperialists. After rejoining the Liberals Cortina was in Queretaro when Maximilian was executed. In 1863, Cortina proclaimed himself governor of Tamaulipas and became a general of the Mexican army. Cortina returned to border affairs in 1871, resuming his theft of Texas livestock. In 1872, a U.S. federal grand jury indicted Cortina, and a congressional investigatory committee blamed Cortina and other Mexican officials with “wanton disregard” for the rights of South Texas citizens. A special commission of the Mexican government arrived at significantly different conclusions, but American diplomatic pressure eventually forced the Mexican government to arrest Cortina in July 1875 and exile him to Mexico City, where he died in October 1894. Jerry Thompson’s sympathetic but balanced biography is a “must read” for all students of Texas history and Anglo-Hispanic relations.

John D. Huddleston
Schreiner University


This is a big but easy to read book about the matriarch of one of the most prominent Texas families of the nineteenth century, embracing the life of Petra Vela Kenedy from her birth in Mier, Mexico, on January 31, 1823, to her death in Corpus Christi, Texas, on March 16, 1885. She lived through some of the most turbulent of times along the lower borderlands.

Petra’s Legacy is both a biography of this remarkable woman and a history of events on both sides of the border, including the vast lands between the Rio Grande and Nueces rivers known as the Wild Horse Desert. Kenedy’s life spanned periods of social and political unrest, economic development from Brownsville to Corpus Christi, and the founding of the great ranching empires of southern Texas.

The authors use previously unpublished letters, journals, photos, and other resource materials to tell her story from the time of Petra’s birth into a pioneer frontier family of northern Mexico through the years when she bore
eight children with a Mexican army officer, Luis Vidal, and her many years afterwards and six children with Mifflin Kenedy, whom she married on May 10, 1854.

As were many women throughout Texas at the time, Petra Vela Kenedy was a strong woman and a tremendous asset to her entrepreneurial husband. While Mifflin Kenedy was busy being one of the movers and shakers of South Texas, Petra kept the home fires burning as he built an empire in business and ranching. Through times of revolution, border and bandit wars, the American Civil War, disease, drought, and economic turmoil, they survived to become one of the wealthiest families in Texas.

The marriage of Petra to Mifflin Kenedy, a Pennsylvania-born Quaker, represented a rather remarkable blending of cultures. She would remain devoted to her Catholic faith, brought her children up in the church, was a good mother and wonderful wife, and became one of the great philanthropists of South Texas.

Not only is this an engaging, informative book, the authors provide forty-five pages of end notes that will serve as a treasure of resource material for scholars of the borderlands for years to come, plus an eleven-page bibliography for what is an engaging saga of Petra Vela Kenedy's life from the first to the last chapter.

Henry Wolff, Jr.
Victoria, Texas


In the years following the Civil War, the U.S. Army stationed African American soldiers on the western frontier. These troops, known as “buffalo soldiers,” served in the Tenth and Ninth Cavalry and in Twenty-fourth and Twenty-fifth Infantry. They established an impressive record, and their story remains one of the most fascinating chapters in American military history. Bruce Glasrud and Michael Searles' Buffalo Soldiers in the West brings together seventeen scholarly articles that focus on the buffalo soldiers and their exploits in the American West. The editors successfully capture the essence of what it meant to be a buffalo soldier and explain in riveting detail the hardships they endured as well as their accomplishments. Though previously published in scholarly journals, the articles included in the Buffalo Soldiers serve as a rich and assessable resource for students, scholars, and the general reader.

Glasrud and Searles divided their anthology into four different parts, including sections on the officers and troops, the black soldiers, discrimination and violence, and community of soldiers. Each part includes four chapters that
examine the lives and accomplishments of the soldiers both individually and collectively; the lives that they lived as black troops in white, red, and brown regions of the West; their relationship with white officers; the discrimination that they faced in white communities; and their experiences within the military. Some of the most interesting chapters examine the careers of black commissioned and noncommissioned officers serving in the West: the trial and court martial of Lt. Henry O. Flipper; the story of Cathay Williams, the only documented woman to serve with the African American troops; the discrimination and violence black soldiers faced in Rio Grande City, near Brownsville, in 1899; and the attempt to mechanize the Twenty-fifth Infantry by creating a bicycle corps. The anthology also includes an excellent literature review and an extensive bibliography.

Glasrud and Searles' *Buffalo Soldiers* is ideal for the classroom, especially in courses dealing with the history of the American West, African Americans, and the U.S. military. Aside from students, scholars and general readers will appreciate the editors' efforts to bring together a diverse group of articles that provide meaningful insights into the social, cultural, and communal lives of black troops serving in the U.S. Army.

Kenneth W. Howell
Prairie View A&M University

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Exhaustively researched and clearly written, this is an outstanding contribution to religious scholarship. Through this family study of Lyman Wight and his small band of followers, never more than 175, Melvin Johnson tells the fascinating story of Mormons in central Texas during the mid-nineteenth century. Enhancing the work are ample footnotes, a thorough bibliography, numerous tables, photographs, and an adequate index.

Wight was born in Connecticut in 1796, moved with his wife to Ohio in 1826, joined the communitarian movement of Sydney Rigdon in 1829, and shortly thereafter converted to Mormonism. Charismatic and aggressive, he quickly became one of the more trusted confidants of Joseph Smith, Jr. Violence toward the Mormons in Missouri and Illinois prompted Smith to look beyond the United States for a new "gathering place," and in the spring of 1844 he sent an emissary to confer with President Sam Houston about a Mormon settlement in the Texas Republic. The Prophet’s subsequent murder in June 1844 engulfed the Mormons in friction and confusion. Was leadership to come from Smith’s immediate bloodline and thus devolve upon the eleven-year old Joseph III, or from a select group of trusted apostles, The Twelve? And should the Mormons proceed to Texas, or some place farther west? Wight
and Brigham Young disagreed on both issues. Wight rejected Young's claim to apostolic succession, and Young objected to Wight's plans for Texas. So Wight's group broke from the Utah Mormons and settled in Texas.

Having heard of the violence in Missouri and Illinois, Texans were wary of the newcomers who held themselves aloof, practiced communitarianism, and had plural wives. The Wightites, however, generally earned the respect of their predominantly German neighbors. They were industrious and peaceful. As grist millers and wood craftsmen, they provided useful services. And they served as a buffer to the Comanches, with whom they maintained tranquil relations. Increasingly addicted to alcohol and opium, Wight died in 1858 en route back to Missouri, and the last leader of his original colony died in Bandera City in 1913.

Although a bit repetitious, anyone interested in religious history will find this a useful study. Especially notable is the discussion of polygamy.

John W. Storey
Lamar University


By the late nineteenth century, the American Great Plains had begun a transformation from mere prairie land to a vast wheat growing machine that produced most of the grain consumed in the United States and Canada. As farmers began to employ mechanical threshers to create their bundles of wheat, a need arose for an adequate binding for these sheaves. Although United States and Canadian farmers initially tried hemp and other materials, they ultimately discovered that only henequen fiber from agave plants grown predominantly on the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico could satisfy their need for strong, durable twine to bind their wheat.

*Bound in Twine* is a transnational story of the United States, Mexico, and Canada, bound together by henequen-made twine that supplied the binding for American and Canadian wheat farmers. This is the industry author Sterling Evans refers to as the Henequen-Wheat Complex that encompassed the Yucatan Peninsula, the Great Plains of the United States and Canada, and Sonora, Mexico, where many members of the Yaqui Indian Tribe were enslaved and taken south to work the agave fields of the Yucatan.

The author also demonstrates the importance of henequen fiber to the economies of the United States, Canada, and Mexico, so much so that in 1915 President Woodrow Wilson, concerned about political instability in Mexico, used gunboat diplomacy to ensure the ongoing availability of henequen fiber
to American wheat farmers.

Combining environmental, economic, political, and social history in this broad work, Evans demonstrates the big picture of history as few studies have done before, by linking the economic, and in some cases political, fortunes of three nations through something as innocuous as twine for binding sheaves of wheat.

*Bound in Twine* is a must-read for anyone interested in the environmental and economic histories of the United States, Canada, and Mexico, and should serve as a model for future transnational studies of this kind.

John R. Lundberg
Cameron University


Most of the icons of the American West – the cowboy branding cattle, the plains farmers in front of their sod houses, the railroad tracks stretching endlessly through the plains, and the views of small towns scattered throughout the West – are frozen in time as sepia-toned photographs. Often seen in these photographs, but generally overlooked as part of the background, are windmills. T. Lindsey Baker attempts to correct this oversight in this volume.

Over 200 photographs of windmills in use, windmills being produced, and people working near them are found here. These images will be of interest to those who remember windmills from their youth, rural America, and family history.

The problem with all these photographs is that they are similar in nature. Some photographs pique the interest of the viewer, including images of a San Angelo girl in a dress designed to look like the vanes of a windmill and wearing a hat which had a miniature windmill as its major part, a view of San Diego in the 1880s showing young ladies atop a windmill, the destructive force of storm winds on the mills, and a modern, power-producing windmill.

The book is effective in its presentation of the photographs. They are grouped by subject and chapter. The photographs used with the chapters on production, assembly, and sale effectively support the information presented in these chapters.

The narrative of the book is its strongest part because it is clear, concise, and informative. Each chapter is fairly short, and the narrative follows a chronological order, not only in the history of the windmill, but also in the production, sale, and assembly of various types of windmills. The narrative describes accurately the impact of windmills on the settling of the West.

The book is strongly recommended for those with an interest in the histo-
ry of the West, technology, and society. The volume is a good overview of the effect of technology on society and the West.

Michael R. Bryant
Garland, Texas


When the boll weevil came north from Mexico to challenge the agricultural stability of the South, none fought a harder battle for existence than rural African Americans. In Texas, where Jim Crow held a firm grip early in the twentieth century, discrimination and poverty went hand in hand. In Reaping a Greater Harvest, Debra A. Reid offers an outstanding history of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service’s Negro Division in East Texas. Her extensive research into the efforts of agents and demonstrators dramatizes the affect on the farming families as they strove to improve their lives, combating the hurdles imposed by white farmers and politicians.

A compelling contribution, written with far more verve than histories usually manage, the book chronicles how agents encouraged despondent farmers to diversify their crops and improve agricultural marketing skills. Reid describes the ways in which agents strengthened their efforts by establishing councils in all the communities, encouraging change where despondency was all too evident. Programs like “A pig in every home” and, better yet, “Get a cow,” yielded financial benefit and improved family health.

Alongside the male agents, women demonstrators are credited with teaching women and girls about everything pertaining to the farm from health and sanitation practices to poultry raising and sewing. The focus was always on cooperation in such innovations as the community canning centers.

The book covers the period from 1914, when the division was established, until the late 1960s, addressing political negotiations, the help provided by church and school leaders, and the limited benefits for African Americans from the New Deal. In presenting the big picture, Reid never loses sight of the communities and families, illustrating her words with poignant photographs. Maps and tables round out a provocative, intriguing account of Texas in its less than glorious days.

Jane Manaster
Austin, Texas

As an amateur historian, my arrival in Nacogdoches a little over three years ago was like a sweet-toothed child falling into a candy shop. One of my first social meetings was with Dr. Archie McDonald, and our conversations sparked in me an intense interest in the history of the development of the Republic of Texas. From these stories, I learned that, just as they did in the development of the United States, Freemasons played important roles in the freedom efforts of early Texans.

Out of print for forty years, Archie McDonald’s By Early Candlelight: The Story of Old Milam gives the reader an excellent opportunity to explore the activities of the most ancient of fraternal organizations. There are no Da Vinci Code mysteries here, no intrigue, or misrepresentations of truths. Readers are given facts that were literally taken from the minute books of Milam Lodge, one of the founding lodges of what is today the Grand Lodge of Texas.

For the non-Mason, this book will provide an insightful look into what Freemasons are really about, how these early members contributed to the formation of Texas as a free republic, and a hint of what attracts men to the organization. Through simple factual information, readers will gain an understanding of the many ways in which the Freemasons helped to shape our modern Texas. Many readers will appreciate the pictures included with the text. Most readers will recognize a large number of the early members as heroes and key players in winning Texans their freedom from Mexico.

For the Masonic reader, there is a treasure trove of information about the workings of a frontier lodge newly given the opportunity to operate and meet unrestricted by the bonds of an oppressive government. Many will appreciate their fraternal connection with men dedicated to bringing freedom of life, religion, and education to the new republic that they had fought to establish.

For many readers, this will be an opportunity for them to understand the community role of men who played such a vital role in establishing Texas as a sovereign nation, then moving it towards statehood.

George R. Franks, Jr.
Stephen F. Austin State University

“Deep Time” is a term that is hard to explain and even harder to comprehend. Most of us non-earth-science mortals can comprehend time back to discernible cultures in Egypt and Mesopotamia, vaguely in India and the Far East. Those of us who got involved with American Indian history began thinking in terms of twenty thousand years ago, around which time Asians migrated into the Americas across the Bering Bridge. We hazily considered Neanderthals, living a million years ago, and australopithecines at four million. But a realistic feeling for time became too deep to discern or consider, almost like “infinity.” That is what Paul Carlson means by “deep time.”

Carlson’s book is about deep time on the Llano Estacado. His story is the story of the geologic building of the high plains of west Texas and the history of the animal, vegetable, and mineral lives that lived on it.

Explaining geological and biological history as it evolves through deep time boggles the mind, but Carlson, fortunately for the reader, is a historian rather than an earth scientist. He leads us cleanly and clearly from the Big Bang down to the time when the Llano was built from the soils washing down from the east side of the Rocky Mountains.

Carlson describes the comings and goings of the giant mammals who roamed the plains and the Paleo Indians who came across the Bering Strait to kill them and eat them. And the Clovis and Folsom, the mammoth and bison hunters. He brings us down shallow time with the coming of the Apaches and then the dominance of the Comanche. And reaches textbook history with the coming of the Anglos—the buffalo hunters and ranchers and fence builders.

Nowadays the geologists and the archaeologists of the Llano Estacado are deep in their digs, particularly in the Lubbock area, tracing the history of the high plains earth and its inhabitants. Carlson is using their findings to write Deep Time and to explain to the laymen this history which goes far back to deep time beyond our general knowledge.

Deep Time and the Texas High Plains is a good read, and it is rich in content which is understandable to the casual semi-scientist. It is also much more than High Plains geology and history. The story of the Llano Estacado—that is, until you get to the Apaches and the Anglo buffalo hunters—is the story of earth building and plant and animal evolution as it happened throughout our planet. Deep Time is an education, so if you want to know what you missed by not taking geology and anthropology, read Carlson’s Deep Time.

F. E. Abernethy
Professor Emeritus of English

Heritage tourists and architectural history enthusiasts will appreciate the new travel guide to historic hotels in Texas. It builds on successes of earlier, similar works, including **Historic Texas Hotels and Country Inns** by Linda Johnson and Sally Ross (Eakin Press, 1982) and **A Guide to Historic Texas Inns and Hotels** by Ann Ruff (Lone Star Books, 1982), but provides important updated information and new perspectives. In making her selections for the guide, author Liz Carmack utilized three criteria – the buildings are at least fifty years old, historically operated as a hotel, and still in service to travelers.

Carmack provides basic tourist information, including brief histories, on sixty-four hotels, grouping them thematically and geographically. As context, she includes a brief overview of the Texas hotel industry, as well as sections on noteworthy hotels that are now closed and historic hotels currently preserved for other uses. The core of the guide, though, remains the current information and colorful photographs on active hotels. Among those in the East Texas region are the Hotel Galvez and Tremont House in Galveston, the Excelsior Hotel in Jefferson, the LaSalle Hotel in Bryan and the Woodbine Hotel in Madisonville. Of particular note to friends of the East Texas Historical Association is the Fredonia Hotel (1953), initially funded through public shares as an economic catalyst for Nacogdoches. Aptly described as the city's “living room” (p. 146), the Fredonia has long served as headquarters for ETHA.

The guide is concise, colorful, and well organized. Novice and experienced heritage tourists alike will find it helpful in their travel pursuits throughout the state.

Dan K. Utley
Pflugerville, Texas


Pat Morris Neff is not one of the Texas governors that many people remember, and if they do, they do not remember him fondly. Some consider him a self-righteous prohibitionist with a difficult personality. Others criticize his weak stance against, if not quiet acquiescence to, the Ku Klux Klan in the 1920s. The Blodgett and Scott biography of Pat Neff will not spark a reassessment of Neff’s place in Texas history, but it certainly provides readers a much broader assessment of his life and times, as well as his private side.
Neff served as legislator, speaker of the house, governor, county attorney, railroad commissioner, and president of Baylor University. The book’s title reflects three motivating factors that remained constant throughout Neff’s career and life, but the authors go beyond an assessment of Neff’s public career and provide readers tremendous insight into Neff’s family life. He was close to his doting mother, a relationship that combined with his consuming interest in political office to take a toll on his interaction with his wife and children. Despite his various offices, Neff was probably most at home as McLennan county attorney.

Neff was an excellent old-school orator, and held high expectations of himself and those around him. In the end, however, he may have been an anachronism. His legalistic personality often interfered with his ability to work with legislators, colleagues, regents, and college students in other positions.

Even if Pat Neff does not emerge as an altogether sympathetic subject, readers will find that the authors have produced a well written and engaging study that is difficult to put down. Students of Texas history will certainly appreciate the way the authors have woven the rich detail of the state’s history into the biography of this complex and misunderstood statesman.

Gene B. Preuss
University of Houston-Downtown


Alfred Thayer Mahan argued that to be a great nation, a country must have a modern navy. Mahan’s theory had no stronger proponent than Theodore Roosevelt. During his presidency, the United States created its first truly world-class navy, with the heavily-armored battleship forming its backbone. For the next half century, the “battleship paradigm” dominated naval thinking.

Battleship Number 35, commissioned on March 12, 1914, as the U.S.S. Texas, represented the pinnacle of naval technology. The ship’s early years proved undistinguished. She missed action at Vera Cruz in 1914 and saw little conflict aside from firing on two submarine periscope sightings during World War I. By 1942, the Texas represented “old technology” as American shipyards turned out newer and faster battleships. Even so, World War II gave Texas the opportunity for combat, and she provided long-range artillery support for landings in North Africa, on Omaha Beach at Normandy, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa.

Enthusiasts of naval architecture will find *Historic Battleship Texas* replete with engineering data. Although the general reader may think some of the technical information daunting, the stories and anecdotes of officers and
crewmen bring a human aspect to the work and provide a glimpse of life aboard a vessel of war early in the twentieth century. The author’s brief final chapter explains how Texans came together to save the Texas from destruction, so that it now rests peacefully as a memorial to those who served their nation.

Cycles of technology have dominated naval warfare throughout history. Ferguson’s book tells the story of the U.S.S. Texas from conception to decommissioning, weaving the ship’s history into the larger context of the first half of the twentieth century. Beyond a military history, this work also suggests the rapidity of conflict-driven technological change in the “Century of Warfare.”

J. Edward Townes
Center for Texas Studies at
Texas Christian University

*Kindler of Souls: Rabbi Henry Cohen of Texas*, Rabbi Henry Cohen II
(University of Texas Press. P.O. Box 7819, Austin, TX 78713-7819)

*Kindler of Souls* is one of a continuing series of books based on papers in the Center for American History at the University of Texas, Austin, and edited by its director, Don Carleton. Rabbi Henry Cohen, born in England in 1863, was educated in Jewish schools and was a part of a community of Shehardim Jews originally from Spain, Holland, and Italy, and who considered themselves elite. Jews from central and eastern Europe, known as Ashkanenazim, part of a largely unwanted influx of immigrants including Irish and Chinese, arrived in New York at the turn of the Twentieth Century. They were to have a great impact on the work of Cohen; a rabbi, poet, and community activist.

Cohen arrived in Galveston in 1885 and joined the newly established Jewish Reform movement, which eased some of the restrictions of Orthodoxy. In the devastating Galveston flood, he served as a member of the Central Relief Committee. In that role he ministered to people of all races and religions. By 1903, horrific pogroms primarily in Russia led to a large influx of Jewish refugees packed into tenements in the Bronx. A wealthy Jewish merchant, Jacob M. Schiff, fearing a rise of Anti-Semitism and concerned about the poverty he observed, devised a program of dispersion of the refugees into the interior of the country. Cohen, who headed “The Galveston Movement,” became an important cog in the machinery.

Cohen was appointed chairman of the Texas Prison Board by Governor Dan Moody and in that position received statewide recognition. He also battled the influence of the Ku Klux Klan. Additionally he was named one of the nation’s ten best religious leaders by Rabbi Stephen Wise, president of the Jewish Institute of America. The author’s thesis is that he wants this generation to recognize the contributions of this almost forgotten Texas hero.
Unfortunately, this book will not do that. In my opinion it is mistitled. It should have been called “Recollections of my Grandfather, Rabbi Henry Cohen.” In that context it becomes a charming account of the author’s memories of his beloved grandfather. At times it is tedious because the author tells several versions of the same story, perhaps because oral history can vary in the details. But the practice provides the reader with more than he needs to know.

Gail K Beil
Marshall, Texas


Journalist Mike Cochran serves up a slice of twentieth-century Texan culture and history in this biography of Claytie Williams. The work covers all aspects of this wildcatter’s story: his West Texas childhood; ties to Texas A&M; Williams’ personal life (foibles and all); roller-coaster business career; and venture into state politics. Cochran’s research is drawn from local and state newspapers and magazines, plus hundreds of hours of interviews. The net result is a stimulating saga that utilizes one tumultuous life to shed light upon some of the political and social changes that reshaped our state over the past seven decades.

While the work covers much ground, this reviewer found two areas particularly interesting – the run for the governorship and Williams’ lifelong relation with Mexican Americans. Regarding the campaign in 1990, Cochran addresses Claytie’s notorious “rape” statement/joke and his refusal to shake hands with Ann Richards. The author permits Williams an opportunity to elucidate upon these two faux pas in a way he was unable to on the campaign trail. Further, the totality of Williams’ life history (particularly his pattern of putting women in positions of power in his corporations), helps mitigate the accusations against him. Lastly, Williams’ ties to Mexican Americans, especially his willingness to stand against an attempt to keep out a deserving individual from the Fort Stockton Jaycees in 1962, among other incidents, offer important nuances on ethnic relations in West Texas during the 1960s.

In sum, this work is an effective treatment of Williams’ life and captures many portions of his riotous history. Readers will come away not only with a sense of one man’s tenacious and raucous struggle to achieve success but also with a clearer perspective of the history of a state which has spawned more than its fair share of colorful men and women.

Jorge Iber
Texas Tech University
Wildcatters: Texas Independent Oilmen was published in 1984 by Texas Monthly Press with a press run of 5,000. Those books were sold, the press went out of business, and Wildcatters disappeared from the market until Texas A&M University Press brought out this updated edition in 2007. The original edition and the edition in 2007 are important examinations of the persistence and importance of independent producers on the state, national, and international levels in the oil industry. In their first edition, Roger Olien and Diana Davids Hinton used the development of the Permian Basin oil fields of West Texas from the earliest oil discoveries in the 1920s through the boom of the 1970s, ending in the economic collapse of the industry in the mid to late 1980s, to discuss the role of the independents in relation to the majors. In the second edition they continued their focus on Permian Basin independents and brought the story to the rising oil prices of the contemporary market.

Olien and Hinton used a wide range of records, including oral interviews, business records when available, and state and federal sources as regulation grew in importance in the industry. In the 1920s the big problems were, first, finding the oil, and second, getting that oil to market. The independents were the discoverers of the fields, but discovery did not automatically mean wealth. Solutions were found to transportation issues, but over-production was a periodic problem, and larger producers wanted to stabilize the flow of oil and their businesses. Limiting production was anathema to the smaller independents, but the huge oil discoveries in East Texas in the 1930s made it necessary to bring order out of chaos for all. The process was painful, especially to the independents whose margin of profit was generally smaller than that of larger producers, but they adjusted or disappeared, and the authors told their stories well. The Depression was a story in itself.

World War II presented both opportunities and problems. New pipelines were necessary. Oil was an absolutely crucial war material; the work force was strained by the demands of the military; and prices were regulated by the government. The independents adjusted or disappeared, and after the boom of the postwar decade, the industry entered a period of transition that forced the independents again to adjust or die. Many diversified into the natural gas market. The late 1970s were a profitable time, followed by the collapse of oil prices in the 1980s.

In their introduction to the edition of 2007 the authors summarized the huge changes that have occurred in the last twenty-five years. The majors have moved more and more out of domestic exploration and production, selling off resources and functions. Independents have taken on more and more of the domestic operations, and many of the independents have grown considerably. They survived a number of years with low oil prices by cutting costs and labor forces to the bone. With rising prices early in the twenty-first century, they are
in a highly profitable stage. The majors are focusing on overseas fields and deep-sea drilling using new and highly productive techniques.

Take a look at the authors’ summary of the operation of Mexco, a small company that came under the leadership of Nicholas C. Taylor, Midland attorney, in 1983. His first action was to cut all unnecessary frills. Secondly, he cut debt to a minimum, invested in acquiring royalties to service downturns, and reduced staff to two full-time employees and several part-time people. For a company whose stock is traded on the American Stock Exchange, two full time employees is a bit hard to believe, but Taylor's is a strategy that has worked well for his company.

Read this book for an understanding of the strategies that have kept the independents alive and generally well. The authors stated that the greatest concern is that federal action might create future problems, but these operators have demonstrated their resilience over the last ninety years.

Jo Ann Stiles
Lamar University


"Tris Speaker's name is no longer the household word it was when he was slashing line drives, running down balls hit to the far reaches of the outfield, and building the career that made him a charter electee to the National Baseball Hall of Fame," states Charles C. Alexander in the foreword of his most recent book. With Spoke, Alexander succeeds masterfully in reminding us that "Tris Speaker must be regarded as one of the greatest players ever to step onto a baseball field" (pp. xx-xxi).

Alexander, a native East Texan and Distinguished Professor Emeritus of History at Ohio University, is the author of twelve books, including six volumes of baseball history. He has produced acclaimed biographies of early baseball greats Ty Cobb, John McGraw, Rogers Hornsby, and now Tris Speaker. Speaker was born in Hubbard, Texas, and grew up playing baseball. A farm injury during boyhood forced him to become a southpaw, throwing and batting from the left side. By the time Speaker was eighteen he had progressed from semi-pro ball to the Texas League, where he helped the Cleburne Railroaders win a pennant. The next year, while still a teenager, he won the Texas League batting crown as a Houston Buffalo. Moving to Little Rock, in the Southern Association in 1908, he won his second consecutive minor league hitting title, then finished the season with the Boston Red Sox.

Speaker rapidly established himself as a big league star. From shallow center field he frequently robbed batters of base hits and threw out base run-
ners, and depended on his exceptional speed to chase down balls hit over his head. An unequaled ballhawk, when he turned prematurely gray he was dubbed the “Gray Eagle.” Speaker was a terror at the plate, batting for both high average and power. During twenty-two big league seasons he hit .344, the fifth highest average in history. With 793 doubles, Speaker established a career total unlikely ever to be surpassed. The Gray Eagle also still holds several lifetime fielding records, including most assists and most double plays by an outfielder. Speaker was instrumental in leading the Red Sox to World Series triumphs in 1912 and 1915, and as player-manager for the World Champion Cleveland Indians in 1920. In 1951 Speaker was the first athlete voted into the Texas Sports Hall of Fame. Throughout his life the Texas country boy participated in far-ranging hunting and fishing expeditions, and in 1958 he suffered a fatal heart attack following a day of fishing at Lake Whitney, Texas.

Alexander excels at bringing back to life a bygone baseball era, and he extends special effort in period descriptions of the cities where his biographical subjects played and lived. Spoke is a model of meticulous research and artful writing.

Bill O’Neal
Carthage, Texas


Dozens of books have been written about lynchings in Texas and across the South following the Civil War and well into the twentieth century. Cynthia Skove Nevels has provided a valuable addition to the literature by concentrating on five lynchings that occurred around the turn of the last century in Brazos County.

The fertile land of that area attracted a horde of European immigrants, especially from Ireland, Italy, and Eastern Europe, in the 1890s. Those immigrants were viewed with suspicion by native-born Anglos in the area, as well as emigrants from elsewhere in America who had long settled there. Whites had all but completed a two-decade process since Reconstruction of wresting all political power away from the sizable black population. Now this new influx of immigrants, with thick accents and slightly different skin color, threatened that balance of power.

The immigrants reacted, Nevels writes, by attempting to assimilate into the white culture quickly. One way they did that was by participating and even clamoring for lynchings of black men accused of crimes against them. And immigrant women willingly abetted these horrific events, sometimes by accusing black men of rape—a near-certain death sentence in the Jim Crow
era. Nevels surmises that some of these incidents could have been consensual sex, with rape accusations made later to preserve the woman's reputation.

*Lynching to Belong* is concisely written and meticulously researched. It sheds more light on a dark time in our history, when the rule of law far too often was superseded by mob rule.

Gary Borders
Longview, Texas


This is an edited collection of primary and secondary sources from a variety of papers, dime novels, journals, and histories which focus on the legend and history of the famed outlaw of the title. *The Billy the Kid Reader* includes reprints of articles from a half-dozen articles and short novels published late in the nineteenth century, as well as nearly twenty additional sources that trace the evolution of the myth in the twentieth century. There is little that is new in this volume and it succeeds only as a convenient store of information about this famous outlaw.

Nolan provides a brief preface which excludes most historical context. His short introductions to each of the twenty-six pieces in this work are similarly lacking and it appears that Nolan is a lazy editor. The most useful sections of this book are chapter seven, entitled "Billy (The Kid) Bonney," and chapter 23, "The Killing of Billy the Kid." The first of these evaluates the number of supposed murders he committed and the second provides further information on the death of Bonney from John W. Poe, who helped Pat Garret track Billy. This book is recommended only for those with a serious interest in this aspect of Western history. Readers with an interest in the life and times of Billy the Kid will want to see books by Robert Utley or Michael Wallis instead.

Jeff Bremer
Stephen F. Austin State University


Internationally known and respected as a western historian, Robert Utley breaks new ground for himself and the Texas Rangers in *Lone Star Lawmen*. 
Until the publication of this book, all histories of the Rangers ended in 1935 with the formation of the Department of Public Safety.

Utley’s first book, *Lone Star Justice*, traces the history of the Rangers from their creation by Stephen F. Austin in 1823 until 1910. *Lone Star Lawmen* brings Ranger history forward through the successful conclusion of the standoff with the so-called Republic of Texas in the Davis Mountains in West Texas.

Throughout, Utley gives a fair and balanced history. He traces Ranger highlights such as former Ranger Frank Hamer’s successful conclusion of the pursuit of Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow; their excellent work in the Texas oil fields and the boom towns spawned between 1920-1935; their successful investigation of the FBI and ATF after the Federal agencies’ disastrous handling of the Branch Davidian fiasco; and ending with the standoff in the Davis Mountains. He also fairly traces lowlights in Ranger history during the 1910-1920 so-called Mexican Bandit War, and the Ferguson Rangers era during the reign of Governor Miriam “Ma” Ferguson.

Before 1935 and the DPS, the Rangers were basically at the political beck and call of the governor. Utley skillfully guides the reader through each administration until finally the Rangers were moved out of the political arena when they became a part of the Department of Public Safety.

Leading the reader through a tangled maze of the early years of the DPS, Utley provides a clear and concise telling of this important time in Ranger and Texas history. The early years of the DPS were hardly smooth sailing and if not for a director of the stature of Colonel Homer Garrison, the Texas Rangers could very well be only a historical memory.

Do not think this book is simply a dry history book—it is not. There are plenty of heroics, gunfights, and investigations by modern Rangers in the greatest tradition of Leander McNelly, John Jones, Jack Hays, John Hughes, and other standard bearers of nineteenth century Texas Ranger history.

This book is an absolute must for all Texas and Texas Ranger historians.

Robert Nieman
Longview, Texas