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Book Reviews

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REVIEWS

Missionary Bishop-Jean-Marie Odin in Galveston & New Orleans, by Patrick Foley. Foreword by Gilbert R. Cruz. Texas A&M University Press, College Station. 2013. Contents. Foreword. Preface. Chapters 1-16. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Pg. 195. Hardcover. \$40.00.

In 1822 a young French seminarian traveled to the St. Mary of the Barrens Seminary in Perryville, Missouri and one year later took his priestly vows. For the rest of his life Jean-Marie Odin devoted his efforts to missionary work for the Roman Catholic Church on the American frontier. His life's work eventually brought him to Texas where he revitalized the church and established a solid foundation in Texas upon which the church still exist.

Early Catholic efforts in Texas—San Francisco de Las Tejas, the lovely missions around San Antonio de Bexar and the sainted Spanish padres' missionary work among the Texas Amerindian tribes are legendary. However, by the end of the Spanish colonial era the Roman Catholic Church's presence in Texas, north of the Nueces River, was almost non-existent. The Church in Texas, leaderless and abandoned, fared no better during the Mexican colonial era. Texas independence and the era of the Republic marked the nadir of Roman Catholic influence in Texas. The new revolutionary government confiscated all Church property and ceded it to the new republic.

In 1840 the Holy See ordered French, not Spanish clerics to re-enter Texas and for all practical purposes re-establish both physically and spiritually a Roman Catholic presence in Texas. And the Pope tasked Jean-Marie Odin with this goal. Once he arrived in Galveston Odin moved quickly to solidify his authority as the head of the Church in Texas. He traveled to San Antonio de Bexar and de-frocked two priest who had used their parishes as a type of rent free experiment in family living, and replaced them with clerics who lived within the bounds of their religious vows. Next, Odin traveled to the new national capitol in Austin and met with President Mirabeau B. Lamar. After some interesting discussions Odin convinced the Texas government to return all Catholic lands to the Church.

In 1847 Pope Pius IX appointed Jean-Marie Odin the first Bishop of Texas and established Galveston as its first diocese. Odin spent much of his time either recruiting men and women, particularly from France, to solidify and expand Catholic tenets in Texas, or establishing parishes throughout the area. This "bricks and mortar" approach to frontier missionary work

pumped new life into ecclesiastical Texas. Soon new Catholic parishes, convents, seminaries and universities sprouted up over the land. His crowning achievement occurred in 1848 when he completed construction of the St. Mary's Church and consecrated it as the first cathedral of the Diocese of Galveston. Thanks to Jean-Marie Odin's dedication and devotion the Roman Catholic Church became a permanent fixture on the Texas landscape.

Patrick Foley, professor emeritus of history at Tarrant County College and for many years the editor of *Catholic Southwest: A Journal of History and Culture* has written a model for scholarly research. Long overdue, this book, *Missionary Bishop-Jean-Marie Odin in Galveston & New Orleans* fills in a huge gap in the religious history of Texas. Hopefully this biography of Jean-Marie Odin will force historians, and the citizen of Galveston to re-examine this priest's contributions to the state and the city. Anyone interested in the history of Catholic Texas in the mid-nineteenth century will enjoy this book.

Donald Willett
Galveston, Texas



Tracking the Texas Rangers, The Nineteenth Century, Edited by Bruce A. Glasrud & Harold J. Weiss, Jr. 2012. University of North Texas Press, Denton. Contents. Timeline. Acknowledgments. Introduction. Encomium. Articles. Photo Gallery. Bibliography. Contributors. Credits. Index. Pg. 358. Hardcover. \$29.95.

"In Texas mythical history the Texas Rangers exist as the saviors and protectors of Texas society." This opening statement of the narrative of *Tracking the Texas Rangers, The Nineteenth Century* is promptly challenged by the authors who wrote it, Bruce Glasrud and Harold Weiss. In the first paragraph, Glasrud and Weiss go on to point out elements of "a dark side of the story of the Rangers..." In the superb anthology which they have assembled, all sides of the Rangers of the 1800s are examined by an impressive company of Ranger scholars, including Glasrud and Weiss themselves.

The heart of *Tracking the Texas Rangers* is a collection of previously published articles and book chapters which examine Ranger activities throughout the 1800s. Stephen L. Hardin provides a brilliant, insightful essay on "Early Rangers and the Nature of Frontier Leadership." Donaly Brice, noted archivist at the Texas State Archives and author of *The Great*

Comanche Raid, discusses the massive raid of 1840 and the resulting Battle of Plum Creek and assault against Comanches on the Colorado River. "The Deadly Colts on Walker's Creek" by Stephen L. Moore describes the landmark introduction of revolving pistols against horseback warriors. Stephen B. Oates relates the ferocious exploits of "*Los Diablos Tejanos*" during the War with Mexico.

Other chapters portray the controversial Callahan Expedition of 1855; Captain Rip Ford's 1857 invasion of Comancheria and battle on the Canadian River; Captain Ford and the border war against Juan Cortina; the role of a surprisingly large number of Hispanic Rangers; the overrated "battle" at Pease River and recovery of Cynthia Ann Parker; the capture of the notorious killer Wes Hardin in Florida; a fascinating comparison of Texas Rangers and Royal Canadian Mounties as defenders of their respective range cattle industries; "Rangers of the Last Frontier of Texas," including the ill-fated Ranger Captain Frank Jones, the drunken Baz Outlaw, and the legendary John Hughes; Ranger conflict with the Jesse Evans Gang; and the Rangers as strikebreakers. Contributors include such noted historians as Paul Carlson, Marilyn D. Rhinehart, Leon Metz, Chuck Parsons, Rick Miller, and Judge Tom Crum, among other Ranger experts. Bruce Glasrud and Harold Weiss, in their introductory chapter, present a valuable historiography of nineteenth-century Rangers.

As editors, Glasrud and Weiss artfully compiled an anthology which covers virtually every significant event and individual of the nineteenth century Rangers. The chapters are rich in detail and interpretation. *Tracking the Texas Rangers* is published by the University of North Texas Press, which has produced numerous important Ranger studies during recent years. No collection of books about the iconic Ranger force will be complete without *Tracking the Texas Rangers*.

Bill O'Neal
State Historian of Texas



They Called Them Soldier Boys: A Texas Infantry Regiment in World War I, by Gregory W. Ball. University of North Texas Press, Denton. 2013. Contents. Illustrations. Maps & Tables. Acknowledgments. Introduction. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Pg. 240. Cloth. \$29.95.

Gregory W. Ball's *They Called Them Soldier Boys: A Texas Infantry*

Regiment in World War I is an in-depth examination of the 7th Texas Infantry Regiment. Ball's main purpose is to explicate the backgrounds and experiences of the individuals who volunteered for service in the Great War and the communities from which they came. He also illustrates how the experiences of the 7th Texas Infantry were effected by and affected the communities of northwest and west Texas. Despite what at the outset seems to be an attempt to identify a unique "Texas military experience," Ball concludes that the experience of the 7th Texas Infantry Regiment was, for the most part, similar to any number of other American regiments in World War I. However, he stresses that although the experience of the soldiers was not unique, the communities of northwest and west Texas viewed the soldiers' experiences as part of a long, distinctive history of Texas valor and fortitude in warfare dating back to the Texas Revolution. "While the soldiers of the 7th Texas did not experience war uniquely," Ball concludes, "the fact that Texans believed they did appeared to be all that mattered, and that led to the addition of their own chapter to the Texas military experience." (188)

In eight well-written and incredibly meticulous chapters, Ball follows the 7th Texas Infantry from recruitment, training, time on the frontlines, and their return to Texas. Ball is at his best in his examination of the Texas National Guard's recruitment efforts and the soldiers' backgrounds. Much of this information comes from the Selective Service Registration cards that Ball utilized to document the age, occupation, marital status, and other personal details of around 1,000 men in the regiment. Although this does not provide a complete survey of the entire regiment, it suggests the typical soldier who joined the 7th Texas Infantry was a "native-born Texan who grew up in a rural area, was in his early twenties, worked with his hands, and was a reflection of the rural and agricultural land that he came from." (40) The bulk of the book traces the training and deployment of the regiment and argues that regardless of whatever self-perceptions the soldiers may have had prior to deployment, their wartime experiences mitigated those vaunted self-perceptions relatively quickly. Ball offers both praise and critique of the regiment's war-time exploits in a balanced manner as he emphasizes the regiment's lack of experience, shortcomings, failures, but also their successes and ability to adapt their tactics to the situations they faced. Finally, in what is perhaps the most provocative but underdeveloped chapter, Ball traces the evolution of the local and national celebrations and commemorations of the 7th Texas Infantry and other World War I veterans upon their return in 1919 and the subsequent ten-year celebrations of Armistice Day and later Veteran's Day from 1928 through 1968. Ball argues

that the commemorations changed each decade and reflected larger social and political events of the 20th century.

Ball's account is well researched and effectively presented, however he neglects some of the more engaging aspects of the 7th Texas Infantry's wartime experience. Although Ball traces the background and wartime experiences of numerous white soldiers who served, he only briefly mentions the 7th Texas Infantry's utilization of several Choctaw Code Talkers during their campaign in France. Ball acknowledges that the use of Choctaw Code Talkers was unique to the 7th Texas, however he never addresses how the decision to use the Choctaw came about, the background of these men, their military experience, or how Choctaw communities experienced the war. Such an omission seems odd in a study that seeks to find a unique experience of the 7th Texas Infantry, but fails to fully explore perhaps the most unique component of the unit.

On the whole, *They Called Them Soldier Boys* is an engaging examination of the lives of the 7th Texas Infantry from its initial recruitment through the end of World War I. This study broadens our understanding of the World War I experience of both the soldiers who served but more importantly the impact this service had on the communities from which they came. Moreover, *They Called Them Soldier Boys* provides a basis for future comparative studies of the World War I experience both on the home front and abroad.

Brandon Jett



MoJo Hand, The Life and Music of Lightnin' Hopkins by Timothy J. O'Brien and David Ensminger, University of Texas Press, Austin. 2013. Preface. Epilogue. Notes. Index. Pg. 272. Hardcover. \$29.95.

Perhaps it is the realities of current publication costs and practices, perhaps it is oversight, perhaps it is the technological revolution in music production, but a pocket containing a compact disc on the rear pastedown would have been a happy contribution to this fine biography. The narrative comes alive when one listens to recordings of the rich timbres of Lightnin's voice and his guitar technique which can melt from stridency to velvet at the turn of a lick. Such listening clearly demonstrates the artist's contribution to American music in general, and the blues in particular. It also demonstrates why Tim O'Brien dedicated so much effort to the study.

MoJo Hand is based largely on O'Brien's dissertation, a result of the musicologist's passion for Hopkins' legacy. It is grounded in first and secondary sources. As co-author and editor David Ensminger says in his preface, "...he combed archives with eagerness and delved into Library of Congress collections, record company files in Berkeley, California, privately held collections, census and social security records, and probate court and police records," p. x. The accumulation of such data is tedious, but the resulting book is not. It reads well and easily inspires one to find recordings of Sam (Lightnin') Hopkins. (Another small quibble: a discography would have been invaluable.)

The authors have sifted through many myths and discrepancies, such as how Hopkins acquired his nickname: 1. from Blind Lemon Jefferson, an important figure in Hopkins' early Leon County years, 2. by singing with Wilson "Thunder" Smith in their early careers, 3. or by being hit by lightning while sitting on his porch. Myths also surround the musician's career path and his associations with various managers and record companies. The Hopkins who emerges in this account is believable, and at times, heart-rending.

Even at the height of popularity Hopkins continued to live in a shotgun house in Houston's Third Ward. He was most comfortable playing local venues in Houston neighborhoods, including the Bird Lounge in the Montrose area. The descriptions of these locales, many of which are lost or radically changed, tell a history not always found in other studies. Likewise, the East Texas farmlands in which Hopkins spent his childhood and young adulthood are not the scenes most of us have known. Hopkins is quoted (p.28) as saying, "Working on a large farm in East Texas meant dealing with plantation owners holding old-fashioned views harking back to a pre-civil-war era racial status quo." In the 1920s and 1930s, Hopkins led an arduous and draining physical life as a subsistence farmer.

The significance of Hopkins' music was recognized with the erection of a Texas state historical marker in 2010 at 3405 Dowling Street in Houston, providing a synopsis of his life (1912-1982) and career in the neighborhood where he spent so many of those years. A statue of the musician honors him in Crockett, where he never lived. This biography, which Tim O'Brien did not live to see in print, ranks high in the tributes to Lightnin'. A song Hopkins penned says, "Don't forget poor Lightnin' after he is dead and gone. Please don't forget poor Lightnin', peoples, after poor Lightnin' is dead and gone."

Anne Jordan
Denton, Texas



This Corner of Canaan- Essays on Texas in Honor of Randolph B. Campbell, edited by: Richard B. McCaslin, Donald E. Chipman, and Andrew J. Torget. University of North Texas Press, Denton. 2013. Contents: Introduction. Parts 1-5. Biographies. Index. Pg. 407. Hardcover. \$24.95

The purpose of this volume is apparent from the title, to pay homage to Randolph B. "Mike" Campbell as not only a scholar, but a mentor as well. Each of the authors of the sixteen chapters have either served as colleagues of Campbell, or studied under him, and his influence is present throughout the book, with its emphasis on local history and statistical methodology. As an homage to Campbell, the book succeeds.

The book is organized into five sections. The first focuses on Texas identity, and features essays by Walter Buenger and Light Cummings. Part II concentrates on Texas prior to the Civil War and consists of essays by Donald Chipman, Carol Lipscomb, and Andrew Torget. Part III concentrates on Texas during the period of the Civil War and Reconstruction with essays by Carl Moneyhon, Andrew Lang, Bradley Clampitt and Richard McCaslin. The emphasis of Part IV is on Texas and the New South and contains essays by Gregg Cantrell, Alwyn Barr, and Mark Stanley. Part V looks at Texas and the Twentieth Century and is made up of essays by Jessica Brannon-Wranosky, Gregory Ball, Harriet Denise Joseph, Alix Riviere, Jordan Penner, and Wesley Phelps.

Some of the essays are certainly geared toward specialists in Texas history. All the essays are well-presented and well-researched, but four of them stand out as being for the general reader. The lay reader may find Cummings' chapter, "History, Memory, and Rebranding Texas as Western for the 1936 Centennial" an enlightening explanation as to how Texas shed its Southern identity in favor of a much more western image, and the reasons for this transformation. "Jose Antonio Pichardo and the Limits of Spanish Texas, 1803-1821", by Chipman, offers the reader a wonderful look at the Spanish period in Texas, which over the years has tended to fade from our collective memory. Lipscomb's essay, "Sam Houston, Indian Agent" offers new insights into the man who would later have such tremendous influence on Texas history. Torget, in his essay "Stephen F. Austin's Views on Slavery in Early Texas" sheds light on the difficulties faced by Austin in attracting Southerners to Texas despite the anti-slavery stance of the Mexican government, and justly points out that Austin's public views were

complicated, and not always in tune with his own personal beliefs.

Of the essays more geared toward the specialists, Buenger's essay, "Texas Identity: Alternatives to the Terrible Triplets" is undoubtedly a conversation starter. Buenger argues that the traditional methodology used to study and write about Texas history is inadequate, and he advocates that new "interconnected approaches" should be incorporated to the study of Texas to provide "a more relevant, accurate, and compelling history of Texas." (p. 3) Also geared more towards the specialist is Barr's essay on "African-American Housing and Health Patterns in Southwestern Cities, 1865-1900". Barr deftly uses demographic data to illustrate the inequities inherent in housing and health care, as well as the segregated nature of society during the period. Cantrell's essay, "The Roots of Southern Progressivism: Texas Populists and the Rise of a Reform Coalition in Milam County" is a prime example of using local history as a prism through which to view a much larger reality.

All in all, any true aficionado of Texas history would be well served by this book. Its diverse themes and emphasis on local history most assuredly does honor to the man who has been such an integral part of Texas history for so long, and serves as a testament to the quality of the historians he has influenced down through the years.

Charles Swanlund
Blinn College, Bryan