

# Florida Historical Quarterly

---

Volume 41  
Number 2 *Florida Historical Quarterly*, Vol 41,  
*Issue 2*

---

Article 9

1962

## Book Reviews

Florida Historical Society  
membership@myfloridahistory.org



Part of the [American Studies Commons](#), and the [United States History Commons](#)

Find similar works at: <https://stars.library.ucf.edu/fhq>

University of Central Florida Libraries <http://library.ucf.edu>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by STARS. It has been accepted for inclusion in Florida Historical Quarterly by an authorized editor of STARS. For more information, please contact [STARS@ucf.edu](mailto:STARS@ucf.edu).

---

### Recommended Citation

Society, Florida Historical (1962) "Book Reviews," *Florida Historical Quarterly*. Vol. 41: No. 2, Article 9.  
Available at: <https://stars.library.ucf.edu/fhq/vol41/iss2/9>

*The Colonial Records of South Carolina, Series I: Journal of the Commons House of Assembly, January 19, 1748-June 29, 1748.* Edited by J. Harold Easterby. (Columbia: South Carolina Archives Department, 1961. 413 pp. Preface and index. \$11.00.)

In 1951 the South Carolina Archives Department began publishing a series of the journals of the Commons (lower) House of Assembly for the period 1736-1775, of which the volume under review is the eighth. It is also next to the last to appear under the editorship of the late J. Harold Easterby whose high standards and intimate knowledge of the state's early records have contributed significantly to the value of the series. Especially worthy of notice is an index so useful that it should be a model for all editors of legislative records in the future. The format is pleasing and the binding durable.

This volume contains the proceedings of the Commons House during five short sessions in the first half of 1748. Indian relations and defense of the colony were the principal business of Governor James Glen and the General Assembly in that year. When units of the Royal Navy were withdrawn for other service, Glen secured and armed private vessels to protect the shipping in the approaches to Charleston harbor. He then faced the task of persuading the General Assembly to honor his commitments by voting the funds. The legislators' solution was to issue 40,000 pounds in paper currency (8,000 pounds in sterling) to be redeemed from taxes, but the governor vetoed the bill as contrary to his instructions. The General Assembly then voted a specific sum for coastal defense to be defrayed from tax revenues over a period of years, but Glen vetoed this without explanation.

Indeed, aside from routine appropriations and private bills, the Commons House carried on a running battle with Glen throughout the legislative year. His Excellency vetoed four of fourteen bills presented to him; he complained further that the General Assembly was niggardly in providing gifts for visiting Indian chiefs and rental allowances for himself. The Commons House in its turn scrutinized administrators' accounts in minute detail and sharply reproved the Governor for a message in which he commented on a tax measure under consideration in that body.

This is a valuable and attractive addition to South Carolina's

published records, and the Archives Department is to be congratulated on its achievement.

ROBERT S. LAMBERT

*Clemson College*

*Georgia's Journeys: Being an Account of the Lives of Georgia's Original Settlers and Many Other Early Settlers from the Founding of the Colony in 1732 until the Institution of Royal Government in 1754.* By Sarah B. Gober Temple and Kenneth Coleman. (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1961. Pp. xviii, 348. Maps, notes, bibliography, index. \$6.00.)

This is a good book. It is thoroughly researched, carefully organized, heavily documented, well written, and very readable. It is strikingly different from most of the histories of the founding of other colonies in that it is not primarily a story of leaders but instead a rather detailed account of the obscure, ordinary men and women whose lives were not spectacular but whose work was so essential to early Georgia. The heroes of this book are "the men, women, and children whose hard work, heartaches, failures, and successes in Georgia's first two decades began the colony."

Mrs. Temple died in January, 1956, before final completion of her manuscript. Professor Coleman, a member of the History Department of the University of Georgia, completed the job.

Among the more interesting of the volume's fifteen chapters are: "Atlantic Crossing"; "Birth Pains of a Colony"; "Other Worthy Poor"; "The 'Unfortunate Poor' as Rulers"; "Scandals, Savages, and Tangled Clerical Love Affairs" (including that of John Wesley and Sophia Hopkey); "Botanists, Trustees' Garden, and Gardeners"; "A House of Mercy" (with particular emphasis on George Whitefield's Orphanage); "John Milledge-From Orphan to Principal Inhabitant"; and "Noble Jones-From Carpenter to Principal Inhabitant."

Those persons - of the some 400 in the Index - who receive most space in the text are: Paul Amatis, Thomas Causton, Thomas Christie, Samuel Eveleigh, Joseph Fitzwalter, Peter Gordon, James Habersham, Francis Harris, Noble Jones, Thomas Jones, John Milledge, James Oglethorpe, Henry Parker, William Step-

hens, John and Charles Wesley. Through quotations from such men the story of Georgia's first two decades is revealed. We learn about the "Atlantic Crossing" on the *Ann*; the problems of government; the desperate efforts to develop agriculture; the establishment of forts at strategic places; Indian relations; the threat of Spanish Florida; education; religion; crime and punishment; the founding of Savannah, Augusta, Ebenezer, and other towns; health and the high mortality of settlers; and other problems confronting a frontier colony.

One of the most interesting sections of the book is the "Appendix" containing the "List of Passengers on the *Ann*" - their name, age, occupation and family connection, location of land (if they owned any), official position, and the "disposition by 1754" of the 114 passengers. In this group there were 64 adult men, 23 wives, 23 sons, 19 daughters, and 9 servants. Among the 25 or more tradesmen on the *Ann* were carpenters, farmers, gardeners, cloth workers, cordwainers, basket makers, mercers, tailors, wheelwrights, bakers, peruke makers, and even a surgeon and a writer. By 1754, 60 of the original passengers had died, 7 had moved to South Carolina, only 11 were "alive in Georgia," and 9 were "probably in Georgia." Few of the early settlers lived to enjoy a better life. Most of them met an early death - the reward of most real pioneers.

HUGH T. LEFLER

*University of North Carolina*

*The Baratarians and the Battle of New Orleans.* By Jane Lucas de Grummond. (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1961. xi, 180 pp. Illustrations, maps, note on sources, index.)

*The Battle of New Orleans: A British View.* With an introduction and annotations by Hugh F. Rankin. (New Orleans: The Hauser Press, 1961. vii, 51 pp. \$2.00.)

A student of the Battle of New Orleans can pick up a few new grains of information from the booklet edited by Professor Rankin. It contains a lucid nineteen page introduction by the editor which is welcome because of its critical evaluation of the

generalship. Next comes the Journal of C. R. Forrest, a British officer, the *raison d'être* of the booklet. This journal, never published before, reveals the extreme logistical problem faced by the British. It fills up twenty-three pages. The closing item is a reprint of General Lambert's letter to his superiors in England relating the grievous failure of the attack on New Orleans. Mr. Rankin added this to fill out the combat narrative presented by Major Forrest. Purely an item for specialists, this booklet justifies itself by means of a few grains of new information.

*The Baratarians and the Battle of New Orleans*, is primarily an interesting retelling of the story of the defense of New Orleans. Quantity-wise the Baratarians do not appear in it as much as the reader might expect, probably because data on them is hard to come by. From the "Note on Authorities" one learns that the author has dug in several collections of manuscripts where the digging would be very long in proportion to the useful data extracted; for example, the Archives of the U.S. District Court of the Louisiana District. Brief or not, the author does make it clear that the Baratarians contributed more to victory than they have ever been given credit for. It was they who provided most of the ammunition needed to repulse the enemy. It was they who, by refusing to aid the British, in effect forced them to approach the city by the fatal route taken. For had Lafitte and his associates been on the other side, they could have led the invaders through better ways. But they refused that aid, and apparently did so for insignificant personal advantage. Certain it is that the professional soldiers painstakingly left them out of official reports in spite of evidence that they had done more than others to foil the enemy. One articulate contemporary, Arsene Lacarriere Latour who wrote of the battle, could have set the record straight, but did not do so because he knew too much about the Baratarians. In subsequent years he was implicated with some of them as spies for Spain.

Except for the justice done to the Baratarians, the author adds little not previously known to the story of the battle. But she is particularly skillful in reminding the reader of the politics operating behind events, for instance the activity of Governor William C. C. Claiborne, and the British unwillingness to accept the Louisiana Purchase as valid. Points like these, usually shadowy, are treated far better here than in most books. On the other

hand, Andrew Jackson is drawn too much from the patriotic image of him. Finally, the style of writing is jerky, composed as it is of too many short paragraphs and devoid as it is of the sort of connectives which make a narrative flow.

JOHN K. MAHON

*University of Florida*

*Old Gentlemen's Convention: The Washington Peace Conference of 1861.* By Robert Gray Gunderson. (Madison: The University of Wisconsin Press, 1961. xiv, 168 pp. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$5.00.)

Dr. Gunderson, Professor of Speech and Theatre at Indiana University, presents a detailed study of the last-minute gesture toward forestalling the Civil War by 132 representatives from twenty-one states who met in Washington in February, 1861. Former president of the United States, John Tyler of Virginia, exerted a major influence in bringing about the Convention and served as its president. The nine seceded states did not send delegates; their representatives were in Montgomery participating in the formation of the Confederate States of America.

The author gives a clear picture of the political, economic, military, and psychological influences which ultimately led to the breakdown of the American tradition of compromise and the failure of the Convention to achieve its stated purpose. The first chapters elaborate upon these influences, depicting the increasing power of the extremists, both North and South, and the impotence of those advocating a middle ground. Subsequent chapters deal with the multitude of preliminaries to organizing the Convention, "masterly inactivity" after it was organized, delaying tactics and conflicts among the delegates, and finally the adoption of a proposed amendment to the Constitution of the United States. This amendment satisfied no one; the Senate failed to give it the required two-thirds vote and the House refused even to receive it.

Illustrations include a photograph of the exterior of Willard's Hall, where the Convention was held, an interior view showing it in session, and portraits of some of the delegates. Pointing up the position of one faction of extremists and also the political attitudes of some delegates, is a reproduction of a political hand-

bill which included a letter from Zachariah Chandler to Governor Blair of Michigan urging him to send uncompromising delegates to the convention to save the Republican party from rupture, and stating, "without a little blood-letting this Union would not be worth a rush."

The book is fully documented. The bibliography lists ninety-three manuscript collections upon which the author drew. A roster of the Convention and the proposed amendment to the Constitution are included in the appendix.

R. L. GOULDING

*Tallahassee, Florida*

*A Rebel Came Home.* Edited by Charles M. McGee, Jr., and Ernest M. Lander, Jr., (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1961. xviii + 153 pp. Notes, appendices, index, and illustrations. \$4.50.)

This is the diary of Floride Clemson, granddaughter of John C. Calhoun and daughter of Thomas Green Clemson. Born in South Carolina in 1842, most of her early life was spent in Belgium, where her father was charge d'affaires, and in Maryland where her family had a farm near Blandensburg. Floride attended boarding school in Philadelphia and visited frequently with Northern friends and relatives but less often with those in the South. A few months after the outbreak of the Civil War her father and brother cast lots with the Confederacy but Floride and her mother remained in Maryland until December, 1864. The young lady's life was not radically changed by the conflict, though there was a certain insecurity to be endured by one whose roots were in the South but whose home was in a border state. Her favorite diversion continued to be visits with relatives and friends. It is therefore natural that the first entry in her diary was made while she was a guest in the home of John H. B. Latrobe of Baltimore. For two years she faithfully recorded the events of her life in the North, and although her sympathies were with the South she was not violent in her views. Floride was discreet and her relations with those around her were more pleasant than one might think possible under the circumstances. With her, friendship took precedence over political views.

As tensions mounted and unpleasant situations multiplied, Mrs. Clemson decided to return to South Carolina. In December, 1864, she and her daughter commenced their arduous twelve-day journey to Pendleton, the home of Floride's grandmother, Mrs. John C. Calhoun. The young diarist described the problems of wartime travel and the shocking change of circumstances she found in the Confederacy. Stunned by the contrast of conditions in the North and South, she wrote at length of the shortages, high prices, devastation, impoverishment, and displacement of many once affluent Southerners. Her diary reflects the conditions in upper South Carolina during the last three months of war during which time she recorded her observations with fair regularity. Like so many other chroniclers of the period, her entries were more erratic after the cessation of hostilities and, in October, 1866, her diary abruptly ends. Floride always emphasized personal and family matters, but she also included the news and rumors of the day.

The most significant contribution of *A Rebel Came Home* is Floride Clemson's comparison of conditions in the North and the South. From a life which included nothing more than minor inconveniences, frustration, and uncertainty she was hurled into a war weary, demoralized, depressed, ruined Confederacy which was gasping its last breath. Unlike many wartime diarists she had not been in a position to record its daily anguish and its decline, but she could and did register her shock at the changed circumstances of the people. Floride did not write in a philosophical vein, nor was she given to soul-searching or predictions of things to come. Her primary interest was people, not issues, and she was a name-dropper par excellence. For this reason the diary needed editing and Charles M. McGee, Jr., and Ernest M. Lander, Jr., have done one of the finest jobs this reviewer has seen. They are to be congratulated on the prologue, epilogue, appendices, and excellent identifying footnotes, all of which reflect careful research and meticulous attention to detail. The illustrations, photographs, and maps combine to make this an exceptionally attractive little volume of which the editors and publisher should be proud.

MARY ELIZABETH MASSEY

*Winthrop College*



*Sheridan in the Shenandoah: Jubal Early's Nemesis.* By Edward J. Stackpole. (Harrisburg: The Stackpole Company, 1961. Pp. xviii, 413. \$5.95.)

"Up to the summer of 1864," Union cavalry commander Wesley Merritt reported, "the Shenandoah Valley had not been to the Union armies a fortunate place either for battle or for strategy." For the Confederates the Valley supplied foodstuffs and a means of easy transit to the north; for Union generals Banks, Fremont, Shields, Sigel, and Hunter it was the graveyard of their reputations. While Stonewall Jackson lived he made the Shenandoah his private preserve, and afterward it was known as "Mosby's Confederacy." Between those two Rebel commanders came the activities of Jubal A. Early, successor to Jackson in the audacious art of the diversionary strike. In July, 1864, Early's troops sought to relieve pressure upon Lee at Petersburg with a raid upon Washington. They got within sight of the Capitol dome, and even momentarily subjected Lincoln to their rifle fire. Though the raid failed in its purpose, it was a reminder of the dangers in a Confederate-controlled Shenandoah Valley.

Thereafter, the Union leadership decided that the Valley must be made useless to the Confederates. Grant selected the controversial Phil Sheridan as Union commander in the Valley, gave him instructions to "go in" and defeat Early-as much for political as for military objectives, since it was election-time in the North-and then to scorch the Valley farmland. "It is desirable that nothing should be left to invite the enemy to return," Grant ordered. "Take all provisions, forage, and stock wanted for the use of your command. Such as cannot be consumed, destroy." Sheridan's Valley campaign was to emulate the better-known scorched-earth action of Sherman in Georgia and the Carolinas, and the small-statured Phil carried out his instructions in brilliant fashion. In a three-month campaign he defeated the outnumbered Early and stripped the Valley so that, in his own words, even the crows would have to take their rations if they travelled there.

This book is a study of Sheridan's Valley campaign, with especial attention to the battles of Winchester, Fisher's Hill, and Cedar Creek. It is based upon the Official Records, letters and diaries of the participants, and subsequent biographical studies.

Much of it is an extension of Richard O'Connor's *Sheridan the Inevitable*. But General Stackpole, with a soldier's understanding of battle and an unusual skill at literary presentation, injects interest into the tactics of these little-known but important Civil War battles. Readers, especially of the "buff" variety, will enjoy his account.

DAVID L. SMILEY

*Wake Forest College*

*Commanders of the Army of the Potomac.* By Warren W. Hassler, Jr. (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1962. 273 pp. Notes, bibliography, and index. \$6.00.)

This volume is a study of the Army of the Potomac and the seven men who commanded it. The author has actually written seven short biographies with major attention given to each man's regnum as commander of the ill-fated Army of the Potomac. In each sketch Hassler compares and contrasts military achievements with comparable campaigns planned by George B. McClellan, whose biography he earlier published. Each general emerges second best compared with McClellan.

The author's research into published sources has been extensive. Although Gamaliel Bradford and Theodore F. Dwight have written biographical sketches of some of these commanders, this study may well provide us with a primer for further, more exhaustive research and writing pertaining to all Lincoln lieutenants in the East.

Hassler is most original in his treatment of George G. Meade. Called by his troops "a damned old goggle-eyed snapping turtle," Meade allowed responsibility to weigh him down, thinks Hassler; this made him impatient and careworn. "At times, in his rage at malefactors, he would deal out corporal punishment with his own hands." Essentially, the tragedy was that Meade had real ability, but lacked the capacity to win and inspire his soldiers.

Hassler interpretations of campaigns led by Irvin McDowell, John Pope, Ambrose Burnside, and Joseph Hooker contribute some interesting anecdotes for the student of Civil War history. In general, J. G. Randall's thesis—that McDowell was not so badly beaten at the First Bull Run and that he was not really too

drunk to fight in the Second Bull Run-is allowed to stand. McDowell and McClellan failures are largely blamed on the Radical Republicans who wanted offensives and emancipation of slaves. John Pope is presented as "a braggart and a liar." Hassler is apparently willing to accept the verdict of those who hated the fighting general from Illinois: Montgomery Blair, Flag Officer Andrew Foote, and George B. McClellan.

Hassler explains most of McClellan's losses by reasoning that "it would probably have been impossible to retain in command of the Army of the Potomac a man who was not only a Democrat, but the probable Democratic candidate for the Presidency at the next election, and that his removal was therefore only a question of time."

Hassler's estimate of Grant as Commander of the Army of the Potomac is that he was tactically second best in all contests, except in crossing the James River and in the Appomatox chase. In his conclusion, however, the author quotes the contradictory assumption of none other than General Robert E. Lee: "I have carefully searched the military records of both ancient and modern history, and have never found Grant's superior as a general. I doubt if his superior can be found in all history." Lee's words may be viewed as an effort to repay Grant for his generous terms at Appomatox, but there is a possibility that Hassler is rating Grant lower than his achievements merit.

Professor Hassler has given us a very interesting and authoritative account. He presents the commanders of the Army of the Potomac in clear perspective and traces their rise and fall with skill. This volume is recommended for both high school and college libraries. Readers wanting to know more about the last great civilian war will find Hassler's work more interesting than most Civil War novels.

MERLIN G. COX

*Daytona Beach Junior College*