

1963

Book Reviews

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Recommended Citation

Society, Florida Historical (1963) "Book Reviews," *Florida Historical Quarterly*. Vol. 42 : No. 1 , Article 9.
Available at: <https://stars.library.ucf.edu/fhq/vol42/iss1/9>

Travels with Charley, In Search of America. By John Steinbeck. (New York: The Viking Press, 1962. 246 pp. \$4.95.)

Comparison of our Nobel Prize winners, though odious, may be instructive. John Steinbeck, for example, is more akin to Pearl Buck than to either William Faulkner or Ernest Hemingway.

Steinbeck's latest book, a beatnik grand tour of the United States, starts out with an exciting account of "Donna" walloping his Sag Harbor, Long Island, cottage. The hurricane did extensive damage in the peninsula state, too, but this doesn't fit into his picture. In fact, when he gets his gear stowed away after the blow, he embarks for Bangor musing about how much he prefers autumn sight-seeing in exciting, chilly Maine to October in uneventful, warm Florida. The horrible vision of "sitting on a nylon-and-aluminum chair out on a changelessly green lawn slapping mosquitoes in the evening" hurts him until he drinks a tumbler of vodka and forgets it.

As long as he follows the Canadian border towards the occident, Steinbeck's reactions are eager, and interested, but when he turns from Seattle, he begins to yawn. Later, still, levanting from Salinas to Texas, he transmits his boredom by repeating tiresome, old jokes about the size of the lone star state, its cowboy boots, chauvinism, and so on.

Reviving as he approaches Louisiana, he gradually works himself into such a rage at the puerility of some segregationists that he appears willing to turn Dixieland over to the Black Moslems. The outward and visible signs of his agitation attract public attention. So on the edge of New Orleans he warily parks Rocinante, his mobile home, and Charley, his pet poodle, where they will be relatively safe from suspicious white tribesmen and takes a taxi to within a block of the school where the disturbances have been taking place. There he is able to spy on the natives without being detected until, outraged beyond endurance by the naughty war cries of some pale-face "cheerladies," he scurries away to safety north of the Mason-Dixon line.

Some twenty-odd years ago Edmund Wilson spoke disapprovingly of "Mr. Steinbeck's tendency to present human life in animal terms." In *Travels with Charley*, the pooch and Rocinante, his "three-quarter-ton pickup truck equipped with miniature ship's cabin," are closer to *genus homo* than his representative

Southerners are, and more *simpatico* than any bipeds observed during the journey.

En fin, just as Pearl Buck took us to China to see the truth about mankind as she knew it, so Steinbeck would have us go to canines and cars, consider their ways, and be wise. Hemingway and Faulkner on the other hand chose daring Americans for their heroes although there is evidence that the Nobel Prize was awarded the Mississippian in the mistaken belief that he, too, hated the South.

FRANCIS J. THOMPSON

University of Tampa

Cycles of Conquest. By Edward H. Spicer. (Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 1962. xii, 609 pp. Illustrations, maps, bibliography, index. \$ 12.50.)

The University of Arizona has given us an excellent work which, although it has no reference to Florida, should be called to the attention of Florida historians. The subtitle reads "The Impact of Spain, Mexico and the United States on the Indians of the Southwest, 1533-1960." Similar work is needed in the Southeast to determine the Spanish, English, and American impact from 1513 to our days. And what we need is a Spicer because author Spicer is to top-flight scholar.

Spicer said that in view of the many specialized monographs dealing with separate Indian cultures-but no overall acculturation study-he was convinced of the need for a synthesis. This is the result. It deals mainly with the regions of Arizona and New Mexico in the United States, and Chihuahua and Sonora in Mexico. Even so, the study is quite detailed and is not a too broad generalization. It is indeed a happy combination of depth and summing up of a vast topic. Professor Spicer has a high respect for the Spanish-Indian relationship but still criticizes certain endeavors. He is less enthusiastic about Mexican attitudes and behavior and he is most open-minded and discussive about American Indian policies. For example, he tells us, "The shift in Indian policy which took place in the 1930's was actuated by a view of acculturation processes similar to that of the Spaniards who built the transitional mission communities."

There is no doubt that many will find points of debate with Spicer. The Florida historian will want to see what can be applied to our area-and much can.

CHARLES W. ARNADE

University of South Florida

The Colonial Records of South Carolina, Series I: Journal of the Commons House of Assembly, March 28, 1749-March 19 1750. Edited by J. Harold Easterby and Ruth S. Green. (Columbia: South Carolina Archives Department, 1962. 490 pp. Preface and index. \$12.50.)

This volume, the ninth in the South Carolina Archives Department's series, contains the proceedings of four sessions of the lower house of the General Assembly, May 1749-March 1750.

When the Commons House was convened, the members' response to news that Great Britain was officially at peace was to concentrate on domestic and local affairs. In fact, only persistent prodding by Governor James Glen brought the Commons to provide the funds necessary to support the independent companies carried over from the wartime establishment. Generally the Commons was on good terms with the governor, but legislative relations with the Council were not so smooth. The upper house rejected two measures of the Commons for encouraging immigration and for subsidizing experiments in potash manufacture. The Commons responded with sharply worded resolutions that it had "the sole right" of raising money by taxes to supply the Crown, and therefore, "no other branch had any right to increase or diminish any grant of money" for that purpose.

Acts to regulate the packing of indigo and the weight of bread, to prevent the spread of epidemics in Charles Town, and for the annual appropriation were the fruits of the sessions. Much committee study and floor debate was devoted to similar matters: aid to the free school; ferry licenses; proposals for cleaning Charles Town's streets and marking the approaches to its harbor; and ideas for new industries, roads, and nostrums.

This is the last volume in the series to appear under the editorship of the late J. Harold Easterby. It was brought to completion by his assistant, Ruth S. Green. It is to be hoped that work

on this fine series will go forward and that high editorial standards and pleasing format will continue to be the characteristics of the series.

ROBERT S. LAMBERT

Clemson College

The Department of War, 1781 - 1795. By Harry M. Ward. (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1962. xi, 287 pp. Notes, appendices, bibliography, index. \$4.95.)

Professor Ward has given a good account of the development of the Department of War from its inception to 1795, and in so doing he has covered a period which has been badly neglected. This monograph explains in some detail the evolution of the United States military establishment during its formative period and clearly shows the influence of the personalities of the first two secretaries, Benjamin Lincoln and Henry Knox. This is especially significant in a period when Governmental departments were small enough to reflect the character of a single individual, and the differences in the makeup and ideas of Lincoln and Knox were clearly reflected in the administration of the department.

This work covers the period of the demobilization of the Continental Army, the Indian Wars, and the Whiskey Rebellion. It also describes in some detail the transition from confederation to federal government and its effect on the executive departments. The author shows the reluctance of Congress to provide an adequate military establishment, either by creating a standing army large enough to defend the frontier or by adopting a plan to develop a strong militia as proposed by Secretary Knox. It was not until the nation had suffered two humiliating defeats at the hands of the Indians that Congress, with great reluctance, provided the force necessary to defeat them. Although the army was used to suppress the Whiskey Rebellion, its administration was taken over by Secretary of the Treasury Hamilton, and Knox resigned shortly thereafter.

The appendices contain useful information on the organization of the Department of War, and the bibliography is excellent. Professor Ward has obviously done an extensive piece of well-documented research, as a whole interesting and readable; how-

ever, it is marred by some typographical errors and print which is hard on the eyes.

This monograph should be most useful to military historians and others interested in the formative period of the military establishment.

FRANK L. OWSLEY, JR.

Auburn University

The Twilight of Federalism: The Disintegration of the Federalist Party, 1815 - 1830. By Shaw Livermore, Jr. (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1962. xii, 292 pp. Notes, bibliography, index. \$6.00.)

This study is "an effort to find out what happened to the Federalists during the years between Madison's and Jackson's administrations" (viii). The conclusion, after "a search of the sources," is that the Federalists who "certainly did not leave the arena . . . tied themselves to . . . the many factions that arose and . . . in 1828 . . . had as many men . . . in Jackson's camp as in Adams' " (viii-ix). Thus the stereotype that "Federalism and Federalists were destroyed in 1816, only to reappear years later . . . put a dreadful scare into the ranks of Republicans who in turn found a redoubtable champion just in time to save the day" (vii-viii) has once again been laid to rest.

In the course of his study Mr. Livermore has contributed some acute commentaries regarding the relation of the Federalists to the continuance of the caucus system, to the presidential campaign in 1824, and to the course of one-party government as well as the revival of a two-party system. Some interesting and important (though not particularly novel) observations on Jeffersonianism, the nature of Federalist philosophy, and the general ineptness of the Federalists are offered in the preface and in the first and last chapters. The intervening material, constituting a chronological recital of political maneuvering between 1816 and 1828 is old style political history from which little emerges clearly. There are other minor limits to Mr. Livermore's study: southern and western Federalists are deliberately excluded; no meaningful identification is made of individual Federalists, nor is there a campsite portrait; there are fanciful speculations re-

garding the consequences of the Federalists holding aloof from political life as a "bitter but powerful minority" (p. 267); an unhistorical penchant for the two-party system intrudes on more than one occasion. But the major exception that one must offer to *The Twilight of Federalism* is that the issues, political ideas, and the problems of party organization and techniques and leadership are not (despite some suggestive hints) fused into a cohesive synthesis. It may be unfair to criticize an author for what he did not set out to do, yet one cannot but complain that Mr. Livermore has not done what needs to be done for realistic political history - the more the pity since Manning Dauer's *The Adams Federalists* showed the way.

Mr. Livermore has given us some well-researched minutiae, and some cogent commentary on politics and parties. He has not provided a definitive study of the decline of the Federalists.

HANS HAMMOND

Rutgers, The State University

The Papers of Henry Clay. Edited by James F. Hopkins and Mary W. M. Hargreaves. Volume II, *The Rising Statesman, 1815 - 1820*. (Lexington: University of Kentucky Press, 1961. viii, 939 pp. \$15.00.)

In the period from 1815 to 1820 Henry Clay's political career was at times closely interwoven with the history of Florida. As speaker of the House of Representatives, he sought vainly to censure General Andrew Jackson for his allegedly high-handed conduct during the campaign against the Seminoles. Clay attempted, also unsuccessfully, to block the ratification of the Adams-Onis Treaty on the grounds that the United States should not have abandoned its claim to Texas in order to acquire Florida from Spain. His argument that Florida's "intrinsic value was incomparably less than that of Texas" is more likely to win approval in the lone star state, where this review is being written, than in the sunshine state, where it will be published.

Volume two of *The Papers of Henry Clay*, which sheds light upon these and other political and diplomatic matters in which Clay played an important role, maintains the high standards established when volume one appeared in 1951. It contains less ma-

terial relating to the social and legal history of Kentucky than did the preceding volume mainly because Clay was away from the state much of the time and his law practice consequently suffered. The volume ends just at the time when Clay had announced his decision to abandon politics temporarily so that he could concentrate upon the legal profession in an effort to recoup his personal fortunes which had declined during his busy years of public service.

While *The Papers of Henry Clay* present us with a wealth of new material relating to Clay's public career, it is disappointing but understandable that they reveal so little about the personality of the man. The editors, of course, are not responsible for this deficiency, for Clay was an extravert who won his place of leadership through personal face-to-face dealings with his fellow men. Just as his speeches do not convey in cold print the magnetic quality that his contemporaries attributed to them, so *The Papers of Henry Clay* fail to breathe life into the personality of the statesman about whom a Louisiana matron once said "What a pity that such a man should ever die."

EDWIN A. MILES

University of Houston

Washington: Village and Capital, 1800-1878. By Constance McLaughlin Green. (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1962. xviii, 445 pp. Illustrations, bibliographical note, bibliography, index. \$8.50.)

This is the first of a projected two-volume work of both history and urban analysis. The intent is to compare the national capital's history with that of other American cities in such areas as philanthropy and humanitarianism, government, the structure of society, commercial development, and general urban problems. However, as the author notes, the absence of statistical and sociological material for the period here covered requires that analysis replace narrative; and even the narrative lacks depth precisely because it lacks reference to the rest of American society. On the other hand, except for Reconstruction municipal politics there is no adequate attention to this outstanding characteristic of Washington.

Though planned as a symbol of the Republic's aspirations, Washington was likewise at first expected to be a sort of nineteenth century Brazilia that would possess economic and political might. This book relates how this concept failed to materialize yet how after the discouragements of the early years (haunted by the fear of Congress' removal and culminating with the British destruction of 1814) determined citizens consciously rebuilt a city to be both permanent and national. Banks, factories, distilleries, canals, and railroads appeared, accompanied by churches, orphanages, theatres, and the usual nineteenth-century urban problems of crime, education, slavery, poverty, fire prevention, and public works. Mrs. Green's pace is swift and her skillful summary is generally inclusive although along with politics she leaves out the significant story of organized vice with its political connotations.

Curiously for a Washington historian, the author seems anti-Southern or at least anti-nineteenth-century Southern. She manages to say without quite saying that free Negroes were disliked only in the South; that Southern manners were "barbaric;" that a slaveocracy ruled; and that even as of that date, secession was not only wrong but senseless. She is so partial toward the Negro that much of the otherwise valuable material on this subject is marred by bias. Her best chapters are on the Civil War and immediately post-war years.

The research for the book was wide and thorough; the style is engaging; and the author has achieved her hope to open research paths for others to follow.

WILLIAM K MASTERSON

Rice University

The Devil's Backbone, the Story of the Natchez Trace. By Jonathan Daniels. (New York: McGraw-Hill Company, 1962. 278 pp. \$6.95.)

This is the first of the books published in the American Trail Series. Jonathan Daniels started his account of the Natchez Trace with the arrival of Hendando DeSoto in the pine and oak covered slashes of the country west of the Tombigbee River. This was in the neighborhood of present day Chickasaw County, Missis-

sippi. Here the land divides between Choctaw and Chickasaw country, with the Choctaws living south of the line. The Natchez Trace itself cut a diagonal gore southwestward from Nashville and the south bank of the Cumberland River to the great loess bluffs about Natchez on the Mississippi. It crossed the scrub oaks above the Tennessee, skirted the blackbelt prairies of Mississippi, cut across the pine hills of the Choctaw country in central and eastern Mississippi, and then pitched into the wilds of the swampy bottoms of the Pearl River, following the Pearl to Jackson, and then leading off diagonally to Natchez. On the road to Natchez it led through vine and cane-shrouded bluffs and swamps—a land which nature itself had clothed in mystery, and made a setting for almost any crime that man could imagine.

The Trace was part of a commercial artery which reached northward into Ohio, and even eastward along the later National Road. It was an early part of the national interstate system of trails. Once the Mississippi River system was opened to the up-river trade, Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, and Tennessee boatmen traveled this way on their return home. They took with them the proceeds from sale of their products in the form of coin silver and articles which they had purchased. Thus they made rich picking for the scum that shadowed the path in hope of easy gain.

About Natchez the story of bloodshed and barbarity antedated the arrival of the boatmen. French, Spaniard, Indian, and anglo-Americans schemed, fought, and murdered for the control of the land. Disease, murder, and open warfare took heavy tolls of the lives of whites and Indians alike. An evil hand grasped this wild swamp empire. Hatred showed itself on every hand.

Along the Trace in time there were well-known bandits of many stripes. Among these were Little Harpe, Samuel Mason, John R. Murrell, and Joseph Thompson Hare. These brigands pillaged, murdered, and harrassed people from one end of the Trace to another. In time they ran into trouble themselves at the hands of irate and determined travelers who proposed to make the road safe to travel.

Not all the travelers on the Natchez Trace were sweaty farmer-boatmen or bloody bandits. Andrew Jackson traveled this way with his bride Rachel Donelson. Lorenzo and Peggy Dow went along the Trace in search of congregations and lost souls. James

Wilkinson, a gentlemanly brigand brought home to Kentucky the proceeds of his trade downstream. John F. H. Claiborne, and hundreds more people on the move, penetrated the old Southwest by this route. Like the old Wilderness Road, the Natchez Trace became a funnel which poured a restless civilization into the lower Mississippi Valley. Eager-eyed Carolinians and Virginians ran away from poverty in search of good lands and personal fortunes following the signing of the Dancing Rabbit Treaty. In turn sorrowful Choctaws traveled the road as a "trail of tears" on their way to removal to the Indian Territory beyond the Mississippi.

Jonathan Daniels is a skilled observer of the human scene. He traveled through the Natchez country in the 1930's rediscovering the South. He has drawn on an enormous number of sources, many of them almost as obscure as the Natchez Trace itself, to write a broad colorful narrative of this part of the American frontier. Few southern historians write with the color, verve, and insight into their subjects as does Mr. Daniels. His mature appraisals of the many and diverse facts surrounding the tradition and legend-ridden road of the old Southwest gives the reader assurance that he at last knows for certain what gave so much flavor to the region from Nashville to Natchez.

THOMAS D. CLARK

University of Kentucky

Lion of White Hall: The Life of Cassius M. Clay. By David L. Smiley. (Madison: The University of Wisconsin Press, 1962. ix, 294 pp. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$6.00.)

Cassius Marcellus Clay, a kinsman of Henry Clay, was a hell-raising, knife-wielding, second-rate politician whose checkered career was one of stupidity, selfishness, and failure.

An outspoken critic of slavery, Clay turned away from the typical abolitionist approach emphasizing moral issues and stoutly maintained that unless the South abandoned slavery as a system of labor, economic stagnation must result. Industrial expansion, he argued, was the key to prosperity and could flourish only in a free society.

Despite the protests of Kentucky citizens, Clay began to pub-

lish an emancipation journal called *The True American*. However, in August of 1845, his printing presses were dismantled by a citizen's committee and shipped to Cincinnati where publication was later resumed under a Lexington date line.

Clay volunteered for service in the Mexican War, some say for political expediency, but saw little action since he was captured and imprisoned for many months. In the 1850's he continued his antislavery activities by attacking the Whigs and supporting the Free Soil party. Later he became a Republican and campaigned for Lincoln in the hope of winning a Cabinet post. However, as a minor reward, Clay was appointed Minister to Russia where for seven years he helped to keep the Russians sympathetic to the Union. During his stay in Russia, he fathered an illegitimate son, entertained beyond his means, and accepted paid-up shares of stock from the Russian-American Telegraph Company for peddling influence in official circles. Later he claimed that he had much to do with the purchase of Alaska but he is scarcely mentioned in the official correspondence.

After returning to Kentucky from the Court of the Czars, Clay launched into politics, first as a Liberal Republican. Then in 1876 he bolted the party and joined the Democrats in the hope of securing some lucrative office. In 1884, he again swapped parties and supported the Republican ticket; however, Cleveland won and Clay gave up politics in disgust. He then retired to his estate-White Hall-and took up the life of an eccentric country squire. In seclusion he wrote his memoirs and at the age of eighty-six married a fourteen-year-old wife who left him three years later. Clay died in 1903 a bitter, senile old man, frustrated and disillusioned.

Professor Smiley's biography of Clay will be of particular interest to students of the Civil War era. Despite some minor imperfections, the book portrays an interesting and colorful figure of the period and will never need to be redone.

CHARLES S. DAVIS

Winthrop College