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membership@myfloridahistory.org

BOOK REVIEWS

Rebel Bishop: The Life and Era of Augustin Verot. By Father Michael V. Gannon. (Milwaukee: Bruce Publishing Company, 1964. xvii, 267 pp. Foreword, illustrations, index. $4.95.)

This is a definitive, sprightly, well-written, and scholarly biography of Augustin Verot, first bishop of St. Augustine. Verot was born in Le Puy, a modest town in south central France, noted principally for its lace and the cathedral of Notre-Dame du Puy, on May 23, 1805. He was the son of Magdeleine Marcet and Jean-Pierre Augustin Marcellin Verot, a lacemaker. According to the baptismal customs of the times, he was christened with his father's full name (although the officiating priest mistakenly recorded it as "Veron.")

The author has succeeded in bringing the most famous Catholic cleric of the Confederacy to life: ". . . the embodiment of humility and meekness, without a particle of human vanity or ostentation. . . . In height . . . about five feet . . . blue eyes and fair complexion. . . ." - (A truly startling reincarnation might be found today in the person of Florida's and St Leo's beloved Fader Jerome!) He has also given an accolade to the high standards of Catholic education of a century ago. Bishop Verot matriculated in grammar and the classics from the Basilian college at Annonay, France, and entered the ecclesiastical seminary of Issy at the age of sixteen. Upon arriving in Baltimore, Maryland, nine years later, he was appointed professor of mathematics at St. Mary's College. He also taught minerology, zoology, geology, and geometry. Later, he added chemistry and astronomy to his curriculum. Verot was never very happy with his situation at St. Mary's, as his correspondence with his Sulpician superiors in Paris amply demonstrates. He complained about the local Sulpician superior, Father Louis Regis Deluol, whom he described as "completely incapable of being superior of this house," about his colleagues, the college, and about proctoring - "which he detested." His pungent letters finally brought results. On April

25, 1858, Verot was raised to the dignity of titular Bishop of Danaba, *in partibus infidelium,* and Vicar Apostolic of Florida. On May 22 he left for Florida, and eight days later his ship arrived at St. Augustine.

An ardent champion of the South, his sermon of January 4, 1861, was distributed as a Confederate tract, winning him in the North the opprobrium of a "rebel bishop." Yet, later during the war he lived one of the truly great Christian chapters of the epic struggle when he served the Union prisoners, who were dying of disease and malnutrition under the sadistic Captain Wirz, at Andersonville, Georgia. Even more noteworthy was his work during Reconstruction, where his leadership in education of the freed Negroes was considered "the first great social enterprise to occupy the interests of American Catholics."

At the First Vatican Council in 1870, Bishop Verot vigorously opposed the definition of papal infallibility, decried the anti-scientific attitude of many of the Council fathers, and caused such a stir that he was dubbed *"enfant terrible,"* Adding still more to an already illustrious name, Verot successfully worked for public support of parochial schools in Savannah. Also, in 1871, five years before his death, he discovered the misplaced ecclesiastical records of St. Augustine, dating back to 1594, "wasting" in the Havana cathedral, and restored them to the mission at St. Augustine.

This engrossing and authentic history by Father Gannon, presently director of the Mission of Nombre de Dios in St. Augustine, is of first importance to the historian, student, and general reader of every denomination.

BAYNARD KENDRICK

Leesburg, Florida

Cracker History of Okeechobee: "Custard Apple, Moonvine, Catfish and Moonshine." By Lawrence E. Will. (St. Petersburg: Great Outdoor Publishing Company, 1964. xii, 308 pp. Bibliography, glossary, illustrations, maps, index. $4.95, paperback $2.95.)

In 1913, the author (who also wrote *Okeechobee Hurricane and the Hoover Dike),* Dr. Thomas E. Will, and three others,

started the first settlement, Okeelanta, in the "sawgrass Everglades." He settled in Belle Glade in 1927, where he started and still operates one of the town's first business enterprises. Recently he retired, after serving thirty years as the city's part-time fire chief, but still maintains his farm at Okeelanta. Paraphrasing Emerson's: "There is properly no History; only Biography," -the author says: "History is made by people-and so you ask, what kind of people did we have here on the lake?" Whereupon he proceeds to satisfy our curiosity by presenting a right "peart passel" of characters who have left their marks on his "stomping grounds" during (or rather "enduring") the past fifty years.

"This Glades country now," he writes, "is mostly one big farm and cattle ranch and cane field, with towns and cities and all the discomforts of civilization, such as traffic cops and tax collectors and other modern inconveniences. But it wasn't many years ago when it was about the wildest and most inaccessible region in the whole United States. Of course, other places have been wild, but there has never been another Everglades, nor nothing even like it. In days to come, I reckon, story writers will concoct a lot of lies about how folks lived in the old days around Lake Okeechobee. So, for no good reason whatsoever, except that I'm about the last of those old timers who came here when drainage work was getting started, I'll try to give you a Cracker's eye view of what life was like on this old lake when settlement here began. That, my boy, was a time when men were men and women were doggoned scarce."

It would be a grave error, indeed, to shrug off a work of this importance because the author has chosen to write it in an informal style which skillfully enhances his characterizations. Fiction is not his forte, and five pages of acknowledgments and sources add the necessary authenticity to his eidetic memory. From Colonel Zachary Taylor's battle wih the Seminoles in 1837, through the 1880's when Hamilton Disston's dredges connected the lake with his town of Kissimmee, up through the discovery in 1961, of the golden treasure of King Calos in Fisheating Creek by John F. Fales of the Florida Archaelogical Society, all narrated events bear the marks of research and historical accuracy.

Even the most skeptical and jaded of readers is apt to find himself "pleasured and proud" to make the acquaintance of Pogey

Bill, the roughest, toughest sheriff of Okeechobee; Dr. Anna A. Darrow, "a right neat figure of a woman," never called nothing by them Crackers but just "Doc Anner"; and millionaire W. J. (Fingey) Conners, who built the Conners Highway, but attained real fame by being the inspiration for the comic strip character of Jiggs in "Bringing Up Father." Then just for full measure the author gives us "Fishhook" Carter (John Edward Carter of Canal Point), who made the hardware hall of fame by ordering *one carload* of fishhooks, Iron Arm brand, made in Limerick, Ireland, and selling them all by mail.

Says Lawrence Will: "Since that time I've asked a many a hardware salesman what would a carload of fishhooks be, how many pounds or how many tons? Every salesman has made the same reply, 'Gosh, I wouldn't know, but it must have been one hell of a lot!' "

Well, the author has packed an equal amount of pleasure and history right here in a single volume.

BAYNARD KENDRICK

Leesburg, Florida

The Land Lords. By Eugene Rachlis and John E. Marqusee. (New York: Random House, 1963. x, 302 pp. Illustrations, notes, bibliography. $5.95.)

For most American historians, land speculators were unprincipled scoundrels who became wealthy by cheating the poor, honest, industrious settlers. For the authors of this entertaining series of short biographical sketches, *The Land Lords* were "buyers, builders, and visionaries who helped develop America," and the reader cannot put down this book without a feeling that the authors have made their point often and well. Although each of the chapters from John Jacob Astor to William Zeckendorf is fascinating, the one of greatest interest to Floridians will be "Flagler, Florida, and Fantasy."

For too long, historians of the American frontier have ignored Florida's development. When the census of 1890 showed that the frontier had vanished, and when Frederick Jackson Turner read his celebrated paper on its passing, most of Florida was still uninhabited except by mosquitoes and alligators. The major de-

velopment of Florida occurred after 1900, and its major architect was Henry Morison Flagler. A Rockefeller partner and a millionaire many times over, Flagler could have retired to Florida and spent his years in ease and luxury, but his vision of creating there an American Riviera refused to let him rest, and to him we owe the initial development of the entire east coast from St. Augustine south to Key West. Although the story of Flagler is well known, this brief journalistic account with its anecdotes is both analytical and sympathetic. The portrayals of Flagler's successors in the development of the lower east coast, Addison Mizner in Palm Beach and Carl Fisher in Miami, are also warm and human, describing with spirit the extravagance and flamboyance of Florida in the 1920s.

The authors leave their story at the time of the tragic hurricanes and the market crash of the 1920s, with Mizner and Fisher practically penniless and with Flagler's Florida East Coast Railway on the verge of bankruptcy, but there is no doubt in the reader's mind that these pioneers deserve the credit for laying the foundation of the economic growth and stable prosperity of present-day Florida.

Although *The Land Lords* is far from a scholarly book, it does make a real contribution to American history in that it treats the long persecuted speculator sympathetically, and is a real contribution to Florida history in that it describes the development of the Florida frontier in an interesting and well-written chapter.

BENJAMIN F. ROGERS

Florida Atlantic University

Florida: Past, Present, Future. By Ernest Harris Jernigan. (Ocala: Florida Research Press, 1964. viii, 69 pp. Bibliography, index. $2.95, paperback, $1.25.

Few overviews of Florida's history have been written and this state whose settlement by Europeans antedates all other American states has been too long neglected by historians. Ernest Harris Jernigan has not attempted to write a definitive analysis but has presented a synopsis which may serve in lieu of more detailed works or as a supplement to the few Florida state histories already written. Jernigan is a Florida promoter and

does not conceal his bias, but his affection for his home has led him to supply a most useful tool in understanding a growing southern state. This short book contains a brief history highlighted by heavy-type marginal annotations to outline the most important phases of his text. Additionally, he adds a selected bibliography which is very useful for those seeking more depth in Florida history.

Mr. Jernigan's outline format and his journalistic style make *Florida: Past, Present, Future* highly readable and his projection of the state's future, in which he predicts greater political prominence for Florida, adds an untouched dimension to the Florida story. Unfortunately this little volume does not approach the scope of a comprehensive treatment, which the state really lacks, but it does add a useful auxiliary to the study of Florida history. The moderately-priced edition is a handy, factual source for journalists, real estate men, and advertisers, as well as students and teachers.

MARTIN M. LA GODNA

University of Florida

The Three Worlds of Captain John Smith. By Philip L. Barbour. (Boston: Houghton-Mifflin Company, 1964. xix, 553 pp. Illustrations, maps, preface, bibliography, index. $7.50.)

In his last, sad days, Captain John Smith could hardly have imagined the role he was destined to play in American history. His legend, literally the work off his own hand, has raised him to folk-hero ranking in the minds of later generations along with other "'men of action," Daniel Boone, Davy Crockett, and Kit Carson. Continually in controversies throughout his life, he has remained controversial ever since, but never forgotten or omitted from the most elementary recounts of America's beginnings.

Barbour's life and times of John Smith is the most ambitious attempt, and easily the most entertaining, to get at the truth of the three worlds in which the doughty captain moved-his youthful adventures on the continent of Europe, his exploits in the first permanent English establishment in Virginia, and his activities as a promoter of New England colonization during his last years in England. The story told here is understandably fam-

iliar in outline because Smith's own writings form the chief source which has been paraphrased by previous historians. But Barbour presents it with gusto and style against a background of astonishingly detailed research that has taken him not only through the sources but over most of the routes travelled by Smith three and a half centuries earlier. If the author began his investigation in the spirit of dispassionate inquiry, he ended by succumbing to his victim's charm. Even Smith's contemporaries fell under his spell, compounded of bluff honesty, lust for adventure, and fundamental human decency. As one wrote, "So, Thou art Brasse without, but Golde within."

One obstacle Mr. Barbour has not surmounted. For his basic source, too frequently his only one, he has Smith himself, as revealed in his personal, and therefore *ex-parte,* account. Given this source from an age indulgent of overstatement and flights of rhetoric that excite rather than inform, Barbour faces the same essential problem as others who have tried to cut through flourishes of fantasy and get to the core of truth. He attacks this problem with elaborate research in geography, linguistics, contemporary histories, and travel accounts to determine the reliability of his main source. The reader moves by Captain Smith's side with the immediacy of first hand experience through the fascinating world of pirates and soldiers in Europe where Smith killed three Turks in singlehand combat, then on into his slavery in Constantinople, to his dramatic escape through southern Russia. The author's method in this, the first of the three worlds, is the establishment of congruence between Smith's account on the one hand and the facts of geography, language, and historical personages on the other. Skeptics may wish clearer proof that Smith's testimony is accurate, for he has long been accused of spinning yarns. At best, the author leaves us with the uneasy assurance that it all could have happened and quite probably did, *if Smith was truthful.*

In the other two worlds - of colonization in Virginia and promotion in England - the case for Smith's integrity comes off somewhat better. The redoubtable captain shines through as a hard-headed realist whose sound judgment and devotion to duty made up for the impulses of misguided companions and sustained, by a narrow squeak, the experiment in colonizing during its sorest trials. Not everyone of the company in Virginia liked

Smith or agreed with his decisions. On the contrary, his enemies did not hesitate to indict him, but they were never able to convict. Finally, in the last two decades of his life, when the adventurer at last wrote the books designed to promote new colonial enterprises, he won and held the esteem of solid citizens who are not taken in by visionaries or confidence men. Altogether, John Smith emerges as a man of action whose word is dependable, not the vainglorious braggart and liar his traducers would have.

In putting together this biography, Barbour admits that he employed "hypothetical explanation, without which it would be empty sequences of fact," a practice professional purists may question. Sometimes he goes too far and in a few chapters he surmises too frequently. But he maintains his readiness to accept refutation when better explanations appear. "Idle daydreaming," he specifically disclaims. His intimate knowledge of source materials is manifest in the analysis of the *General History,* a perceptive critique of Jacobean writing methods, and an illustration of the hazards of using sixteenth century literature as a source. Occasional lapses into anachronism are offset by genuinely excellent touches, such as the pages on the departure of the fleet for Virginia. The commentaries, an infelicitous substitute for footnotes, do not enhance the value of this study for scholars. Whatever risks and liberties the author has taken, he doubtless gets an approving nod from the shade of Captain John Smith, who was not above taking some himself.

AUBREY C. LAND

University of Maryland

The Glorious Revolution in America: Documents on the Colonial Crisis of 1689. Edited by Michael G. Hall, Lawrence H. Leder, and Michael G. Kammen. (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press for the Institute of Early American History and Culture, Williamsburg, 1964. xvii, 216 pp. Maps. $2.50.)

This volume, third in the series of *Documentury Problems in Early American History*, draws together from a wide range of sources over 120 documents on the colonial uprisings that occurred in Massachusetts Bay, New York, and Maryland in the wake

of the Glorious Revolution in England. The primary function of the series is to bring students into the historian's workshop, acquaint him with the raw materials of history, and introduce him to the tools and methods of the professional historian so that he might, in the editors' words, "better appreciate the general complexity that faces the historian" - and, one might add, any man who seeks to understand the world of either the past or the present - "as he analyzes men and events." A secondary purpose is to "provide the scholar with valuable compilations of source materials for his own reference library." The present volume fulfills both functions admirably. A careful selection of the most important documents on each of the uprisings, it is organized in a way that is well calculated to show the many dimensions of the events under consideration and to introduce the student to the infinite variety of questions about the nature of causation, motivation, and social and political change that are inherent in every important historical incident.

The editors raise many of these questions in a series of brief editorial introductions in which they also attempt to assess the significance of the uprisings in the overall development of the English colonies in America. They see these events as revolutionary and decisive, the result of a "disruption of society" that proceeded from a combination of general causes and local conditions and determined for at least a generation the course of political development in the colonies in which they occurred. Equally important, these events altered the pattern of relationships between the colonies and the mother country by forcing the abandonment of the Dominion concept of colonial unification and the reestablishment of representative government within a standard political framework that was subsequently applied to all royal colonies. In general, this interpretation seems to be justified by an examination of the documents, although the editors may put too high a valuation on the importance of these events in shaping the nature of imperial-colonial relationships over the next seven decades. Aside from their effects upon the political situation within the colonies, these uprisings can be viewed, like their grand model in England, as little more than palace revolutions that were, at least in Massachusetts Bay and New York, in large part a reaction against the attempt of James II and his advisors to enforce a set of ideals that, however viable they may still have

been in the France of Louis XIV, had been badly shaken in England by the Civil War and were no longer applicable to the conditions of the late seventeenth century in either England or America. With the notable exception of the grant of New York to the Duke of York, every colonial charter from the 1632 Calverts grant to the 1681 William Penn grant had required the consent of freemen in making laws, with the result that by 1684 every colony except New York had some, and in most cases a long and well-established tradition of, representative government. The colonial uprisings of 1689 may well have settled the matter once and for all, but even without them it is difficult to believe that an arrangement so foreign and so odious to the traditions and experiences of the colonies as the Dominion could have survived for long.

JACK P. GREENE

The Johns Hopkins University

The Colonial Wars, 1689-1762. By Howard H. Peckham. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1964. xvi, 239 pp. Bibliographical essay, index. $5.00.)

Howard H. Peckham has written a brief, perceptive narrative of the colonial wars, to place beside his earlier brilliant summary of the military history of the American Revolution. Both studies have been published as volumes in the Chicago History of American Civilization series.

The four colonial wars (King Williams's War, Queen Anne's War, King George's War, and the French and Indian War), all of which had an impact on the history of Florida, differed from European conflicts "in at least four particulars:" Indians were used as allies; battles were fought in the wilderness; supplies were always thin; and the rules of the professional armies were "largely ignored." With these differences to the fore, Peckham tells the story of the colonial campaigns and battles. The major virtue of this book, however, is that it shows how these differences created problems, the solutions of which introduce the reader to the background of the American Revolution.

Most notable was the problem of manpower. There were five possible ways for the English to organize their forces for battle: British Regulars might be sent out from England (the

first Independent Company arrived in 1674); the standing regiments might themselves be recruited in the colonies (the Sixtieth Regiment led by Swiss officers is a good example); a militia might be raised by the colonies, but paid for out of the British treasury (as Pitt tried in 1758); a militia might be raised and paid for by the colonies (something the colonials were always reluctant to do); and finally a new type of fighting unit might be brought forth - the Rangers. The fifth mode was the most important innovation, for the use of the Rangers, such as those commanded by Captain Robert Rogers, was destined to change the tactics of warfare. This military manpower story should have indicated to the British that in the American Revolution they would have to rely on Regulars and to Washington that the "summer soldier" would be unreliable. The Americans themselves felt that the seasonal militia was the least of military evils, but they still wanted "a bounty for joining, the privilege of electing company officers, a short term of duty, a particular objective, and perhaps a grant of land upon discharge."

Other problems concerned funds, communications, and intercolonial cooperation. These wars created a demand for paper money, showed the colonials the need for an agent in London, and brought them to the congress at Albany. Ultimately the wars made real that dream of safety-sought since 1689 and obtained in 1762. The freedom from fear of the French and the Spanish probably had much to do with the coming of the war in 1776.

Peckham writes here as before in a sprightly style. The Iroquois provided a "spruce curtain" between the French and the English. William Johnson ingratiated himself with the Mohawks and "amiably" took their daughters as mistresses. Above all, Peckham writes, these wars have been obscured by the American Revolution "which deadened the echo of earlier drums."

There are also thumbnail sketches of the leaders. Some were almost all bad like Jacob Leisler; some almost all good like William Shirley. Others have been drawn in more complex dimensions such as James Wolfe. An index should be either thorough or omitted. The Carolinas are not mentioned in the index although they appear on thirty-four pages of the text.

GEORGE C. ROGERS, JR.

University of South Carolina