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## Book Reviews

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## BOOK REVIEWS

*Indian River: Florida's Treasure Coast.* By Walter R. Hellier.  
(Coconut Grove: Hurricane House Publishers, 1965. xii, 128  
pp. Foreword, illustrations, map. \$4.95, paperback \$2.95.)

Two recent developments have turned the fierce spotlight of publicity on the Indian River Country and have threatened to rearrange its history in short order. Prior to this generation of hustle and bustle the hundred miles of the Atlantic coast from Titusville, once called Sand's Point, south to St. Lucie Inlet was best known for its quiet tranquility and natural beauty. First came the missile test center, later the whole complex of space probing activities at Cape Canaveral, which became Cape Kennedy, and the rapid industrial development of the region, causing the end of the old slow and easy-going days, and much rearrangement of the old familiar landscape. Partly because of the capital and skills accumulated at the Cape, treasure hunters using modern techniques began to hunt for the remains of Spanish ships sunk on the reef. Their spectacular finds gave nationwide publicity to an ancient part of the history of the coast when Spanish treasure ships made their way along this coast to a point near the Cape from which they turned homeward across the Atlantic.

The author concentrates upon more recent events. Indian lore, including the Seminole War which resulted in some exploration of the region, some dramatic episodes, and some place names, receives relatively little space. Tribute is rightfully paid to the Dummitts, father and son, and the establishment of the Dummitt Grove on Merritt Island early in the nineteenth century. This orange grove, one of the many that far north, survived the big freezes of the winter 1894-1895, to become the source of much stock for replanting. In some thirteen pages the reader finds himself able to reach Titusville by railroad which marks the beginning of the modern era for that and all other settlements along the right of way of the Florida East Coast Railroad which reached Miami in 1896 and Key West in 1912.

Thereafter Mr. Hellier, who came to Fort Pierce in 1903 at the age of fourteen tells the story of the settlements along that

hundred mile stretch. He relies chiefly upon first hand accounts of pioneers and their descendants and thereby does his greatest service to history. Here are related tales of steamboat days as well as early railroading. Growing pineapples, commercial fishing, boating (freight and passenger) and generally catering to a growing army of tourists, with some vegetable and fruit growing, constituted the basis of the economy until World War II and its aftermath began to transform the land and the life of its people.

Scratch a native Floridian anywhere along this coast and one is likely to uncover a treasure hunter at heart if not in fact. In spite of this and the subtitle of the book, "Florida's Treasure Coast," this subject does not receive disproportionate attention. Chalk up another contribution to the growing number of local studies that will one day make possible an entirely new and different history of Florida.

CHARLTON W. TEBEAU

*University of Miami*

*The Memoire Justificatif of the Chevalier Montault de Monberaut: Indian Diplomacy in British West Florida, 1763-1765.* Translated and Introduced by Milo B. Howard, Jr. and Robert R. Rea. (University of Alabama: University of Alabama Press, 1965. 187 pp. Foreword, introduction, notes, index. \$5.95.)

The inter-colonial transfer of Florida from Franco-Spanish to British control, 1763-1764, was complicated by a number of international and Indian issues. Many of the international problems passed away with the French and Spanish migrations to Havana, New Orleans, and Vera-Cruz. As Franco-Spanish supremacy over the Florida peninsula and gulfcoast ceased with the Paris Peace Treaty of 1763, the new British provinces were primarily concerned with the pacification of the indigenous population and the settlement of English colonists in the recently acquired areas. All future settlement of Florida required peaceful Indian relations, especially in this era of the "Pontiac conspiracy" in the northern colonies. Chevalier Montault de Monberaut, former French commander of Fort Toulouse and famous Indian negotiator, thus received requests from the British colonial ad-

ministration to assist His Britannic Majesty in the arrangement of congresses and treaties with the Chickasaws, Choctaws, and Creeks.

Chevalier Montault de Monberaut agreed to serve the colonial government of Great Britain, and the French resident of Mobile thereafter became Deputy Superintendent for Indian Affairs in the Province of West Florida. After only a few months of service, Montault de Monberaut helped organize the 1765 Indian congresses at Mobile and Pensacola. At the end of six months of employment, the deputy superintendent and his English employers negotiated peace pacts with the Indian peoples of West Florida; the Indian treaties included generous land cessions to the new southern colony. Montault de Monberaut was subsequently relieved of his commission with the West Florida administration.

The *Memoire Justificatif* is an enlightening contemporary account of Indian affairs in West Florida in the first two years of English occupation. This memorial which is splendidly introduced and translated, also presents a fascinating story of Franco-British cooperation and conflict on the colonial frontier. Finally, Chevalier Montault de Monberaut's report to the British crown inadvertently provides a detailed portrait of frontier life in Florida at the middle of the eighteenth century.

Actually, the *Memoire Justificatif* is Chevalier Montault de Monberaut's dossier and service record for George III of England. It is also his convincing refutation of the charges made against him by Governor George Johnstone of West Florida concerning his employment in the British colonial government; the long refutation includes his interesting correspondence with the officialdom of West Florida and British America, as well as speeches to the 1765 Indian congresses. Finally, this memorial offers an unusual insight into an eighteenth-century man, mind, and age.

ROBERT L. GOLD

*Southern Illinois University*

*Battlefield and Classroom: Four Decades with the American Indian, 1867-1904.* By Richard Henry Pratt. Edited with an introduction by Robert M. Utley. (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1964. xix, 358 pp. Maps, illustrations, introduction, index. \$7.50.)

This is the reminiscence of Richard Henry Pratt, dictated by him at the age of eighty-two. His age and probable failure of memory might make the value of his words questionable, except that the most telling parts of the book are sustained by contemporary correspondence. Pratt served throughout the Civil War, and thenceforth was a professional soldier until his death, at eighty-four. In 1867 he was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Tenth U. S. Cavalry, a Negro regiment, and sent with it to serve upon the Indian frontier in the West. There he took part in the Washita Campaign of 1868 and in the subsequent conflicts which stemmed from the government's determination to confine the Indians to reservations.

Pratt's enduring significance arises from his unswerving belief in the ability of the two minority races, Indians and Negroes, with which he worked and fought, and he insisted that they must be desegregated and moved into the stream of American white-life. His belief extended itself into a crusade to educate Indian children so that they might migrate out of savagery and into civilization: "What brighter glory could shine from our national escutcheon than to give the native people we found here foremost privileges to become a part of our citizenry under our benign Declaration of Independence and Constitution!"

The story touches Florida twice. In the mid-1870s he was sent with Plains Indian prisoners to Ft. Marion (Castillo de San Marcos) at St. Augustine, and there served as their warden for three years. At this time, his idea of advancing the Indian through education first developed. In 1879 he was sent by the government to try to reestablish contact with the small band of Seminoles who remained in Florida.

Pratt received permission to educate some of his young prisoners, but the utmost concession the government could make was that the red pupils be segregated from white youths and paired with Negroes at Hampton Institute. This did not satisfy Pratt, but it was the best he could get and he accepted it. Here, as throughout his military life, he displayed the wonderful resilience sometimes found in professional soldiers. He could face the brutal realities of war and the "establishment," but at the same time could continue to await new opportunities and exploit them to advance a notch or two, meanwhile making do with what was at hand. Following this sort of tender-minded realism, he succeeded

in persuading the government to let him use the empty barracks at Carlisle as an Indian school. At this point, his narrative becomes exciting, even thrilling, because it relates the old, old fight, which never grows tiresome, against prejudice, vested interest, and greed. Pratt fought those ogres for the next twenty-seven years, and in the end made so many enemies that he was removed from the Carlisle school - but not before he had trained 4,903 Indian children from seventy-seven different tribes.

Some persons with humane instincts opposed him because of his theory. He wanted to eliminate the old savage Indian ways and meld the Indians into our "civilization." They wished to see the Indian culture, at least some of it, preserved as a thing in itself, and thus preferred that the redmen remain segregated from white society on reservations. The Bureau of American Ethnology apparently so believed, and Pratt considered it his nastiest foe. The Indian Bureau was a villain also, but less due to theory than to vested interest in the reservation system.

All in all, this is a noble and an exciting story. The reader nearly cheers out loud when he reads Pratt's sentence to President Hayes, no less, in March 1880: "Knowing as I do that I am supremely right, it would be wicked to falter, even though pressure to that end came in threats from the General of the Army." He never did falter, and so he is, or should be, in the hall of heroes of those who believe in equal opportunity. Readers of this same persuasion cannot fail to find inspiration in his book. Anyone can learn a good deal of useful history from it.

JOHN K. MAHON

*University of Florida*

*Baroness von Riedesel and the American Revolution: Journal and Correspondence of a Tour of Duty, 1776-1783.* By Baroness von Riedesel. A revised translation with Introduction and Notes by Marvin L. Brown, Jr. (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press for the Institute of Early American History and Culture, 1965. xlvii, 222 pp. Illustrations, preface, maps, introduction, index. \$6.00.)

Baroness von Riedesel's journal and letters represent one of the more unique memoirs of the American Revolution; they were

written by a woman who was present on the battlefield, by a foreigner of noble birth who was keenly conscious of the social differences between her native Prussia and Brunswick and republican America, and by the only German wife with the mercenary forces serving under General John Burgoyne who had the presence of mind to record her impressions of the Saratoga campaign of 1777. While this account covers her activities from the time she left Brunswick in 1776 to join her husband in America until her return to Europe in 1783, most historians, no doubt, will be interested in the military aspects of her writings rather than in the social commentary. Daughter of a Prussian general, and wife of the commander of the Brunswick contingent in America, the Baroness felt qualified to comment upon military men and matters, and, in a way, her remarks constitute a history of the Saratoga campaign from a German point of view.

Leaving Brunswick with two small children and a new baby, the Baroness arrived in Quebec in June 1777, and set out by galley, carriage, and canoe to find her husband who was on the fighting front near Chambly. Eventually the two were reunited, and after some wifely pressure had been applied the Baroness was permitted to join Burgoyne's army on its advance toward Albany. As a result, she was an eye-witness at both battles at Saratoga. After the surrender at Saratoga, she followed her husband into captivity as the Convention Army moved from Massachusetts to Virginia. When General Riedesel was exchanged as a prisoner of war in 1780 and restored to active duty, his wife followed him. For six years she remained by her husband's side and the very length of time covered by her memoirs makes them a singular contribution.

Madame Riedesel's journal is especially intriguing for her comments on the military situation during the Saratoga campaign. Every American, she noted, "is a born soldier and good marksman; in addition, the thought of fighting for their country and for freedom made them braver than ever." Burgoyne's army, on the other hand, was incapable of keeping military secrets and "even the Americans were acquainted with all our plans in advance." Between the first and second battles of Saratoga, she described the soldiers in Burgoyne's army as singing and jolly, "burning with the desire for victory." Even after his army was

defeated and was attempting to retreat to Canada, Burgoyne spent "half the night singing and drinking and amusing himself in the company of the wife of a commissary, who was his mistress and, like him, loved champagne." The Baroness' bias against Burgoyne is pronounced and her remarks, while interesting, are not always accurate.

Madame Riedesel's journal sheds light on the manners and mores of eighteenth-century Americans. She notes on a number of occasions the respect accorded to her sex in this country, the hospitality extended to her and her family, and the different way in which various social classes reacted to the presence of a woman of noble blood. Like many foreign observers, she was impressed by the flora and fauna in America, the vastness of the country, and the interesting local customs of its inhabitants.

Her memoirs merit greater attention than they have received in the past. Marvin L. Brown, Jr. has provided an excellent new translation of her journal and included previously unpublished letters as well as portions of letters which were omitted from earlier editions. Although Brown is aware that Thomas Anburey's account of his tour of duty in America has plagiarized passages, he seems to have relied a bit too heavily on this work. But in the main, Brown has done his work well and reproduced an important primary source to which American historians will turn for many years to come.

GEORGE ATHAN BILLIAS

*Clark University*

*John Williams Walker: A Study in the Political, Social and Cultural Life of the Old Southwest.* By Hugh C. Bailey. (University of Alabama: University of Alabama Press, 1964. 228 pp. Notes, bibliography, index. \$5.95.)

John Williams Walker was not the typical pioneer, but he was representative of a small group of men who moved to the southern frontier with considerable education and some wealth. These men, through their ability and wealth, quickly became the leaders of their communities and soon controlled the political life of the area.

Walker, born in Virginia and reared in Georgia, was educated at Waddell Academy and at Princeton University. In 1810 he married Matilda Pope, daughter of the well-known LeRoy Pope, and the young couple moved to Madison County in the Mississippi territory. A young lawyer of exceptional ability and with full membership in the politically experienced "Georgia faction," Walker soon came to have much influence in the area around Huntsville and in the territory. Although he was defeated in his race for the Mississippi territorial legislature in 1811, Walker gained the chance to succeed in politics with the creation of the Alabama territory in 1817. His friendship with men of national importance such as William Crawford moved him into immediate prominence. Walker was elected to the Alabama territorial legislature, where he played an active part. He gained fame by preparing the charter for a bank in Huntsville, increasing the militia, and supporting internal improvements. In the second legislative session, he was elected speaker of the house.

After being elected to the constitutional convention as a delegate from Madison County, Walker was unanimously elected president of the convention. Following this, he was elected first United States Senator from Alabama, being chosen by lot for the six-year term. While he served only one term in this office, Walker played significant parts in the Missouri Compromise, the acquisition of Florida, and the public land law of 1821. His most outstanding contribution in the Senate was his support of and additions to this land law. Walker's rapid rise to political fame came in spite of chronic ill health, but his career came to an abrupt end when he died in 1822 at the age of forty.

Dr. Bailey has written a readable account of an interesting and significant individual. The book, both well written and well organized, shows extensive research in manuscript materials. At first the reader may feel that too much time has been spent describing the numerous relatives and friends of the Walker family. However, as the book develops, it becomes apparent that a major basis of a political career in this period was indeed family connections and friends. The author tells his story well, although he assumes that the reader already has some knowledge of the political activity of the period. Dr. Bailey has made a contribution to the knowledge of the southern frontier and the work should be of interest to students of the South.

*Auburn University*

FRANK L. OWSLEY, JR.