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BOOK REVIEWS

Florida: From Indian Trail To Space Age. By Charlton W. Tebeau and Ruby Leach Carson. 3 vols. (Delray Beach: Southern Publishing Company, 1965. xxxiv, 1,618 pp. Introduction, preface, illustrations, maps, bibliography, index. $82.50.)

Volume I of the narrative history compiled by Dr. Tebeau and Mrs. Carson, covering the years of Florida's history from discovery to 1896, includes all facets of the story, in addition to the usual relation of political activities. Special sections at the end of this volume by R. S. Chauvin and Ripley and Adelaide Bullen describe the natural features of Florida, its prehistory, and Indians of the past and present. Volume II covers the period from the Spanish American War through 1965. There are also a number of chapters in this volume dealing with a diversity of topics ranging from religion to constitutional revision and legislative apportionment. These special topic chapters are excellent additions.

Volume III, containing personal and family history sketches and some accompanying portraits, may well become the *MOST* valuable item of the three. Information on hundreds of individuals who have contributed to Florida history can often be located *only* in the biographical volumes of these subscription histories, hence their great value. Historians condescendingly refer to these as "mug histories," but let the student of Florida history remember the sparsity of enough good historical data.

The authors in their preface state that their history is "an attempt to synthesize all of the work that others have done and to bring the studies up to date." That the authors have succeeded in their self-appointed chore is very evident. For example, in chapter fifteen, describing the activities of the armed forces in the Civil War, many of the references cited have become available only since 1951. What is true of this chapter dealing with a nineteenth century subject is even more evident with twentieth century subjects.

While the selection of references is generally good, the omission of footnotes or chapter notes is unfortunate. A formal bibli-

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ography would also have been useful. The three volumes are separately indexed and the illustrations offer a good selection and usually accompany the narrative as related to the text. Special mention should be made of the fine pen and ink drawings of Norval E. Packwood, Jr. Credit should also go to the publisher who has maintained the high quality of his earlier books: D. B. McKay's *Pioneer Florida* and E. C. Nance's *East Coast of Florida*

Viewed as a whole, this narrative history is well-related, although there is an unevenness which is always present when multiple authors contribute their efforts in publishing a general history. A few mistakes inevitably find their way into any publication. No doubt Allan Nevins will be amazed to find that he collaborated with former Governor Fuller Warren on *How to Win in Politics in 1949.*

J. E. DOVELL

University of Florida

Okeechobee Boats and Skippers. By Lawrence E. Will. (St. Petersburg: Great Outdoors Publishing Company, 1965. 166 pp. Maps, illustrations, index. $1.95.)

Okeechobee Catfishing. By Lawrence E. Will. (St. Petersburg: Great Outdoors Publishing Company, 1965. 159 pp. Illustrations, index. $1.50.)

Lawrence E. Will is perhaps Florida's most unique "amateur" historian. He "growed up" in the Lake Okeechobee-Everglades country. The story of that region since white men began to settle there early in this century is also his own story. He was history-conscious from the first. A keen observer, he kept notes and photographs. Because he became known as the local historian he was the recipient of other stories and pictures, all of which he uses to good effect. He writes in an excellent narrative style or resorts to the dialect appropriate to the character he is describing. He began by writing stories for the local paper and making talks mostly at gatherings in the lake region. In 1959, his article, "'Digging the Cape Sable Canal," appeared in *Tequesta*. It was based upon material and pictures he made while working on that project in 1921-22. He started another article which grew

into a book, *Okeechobee Hurricane and the Hoover Dike*. A second, *A Cracker History of Lake Okeechobee*, followed. The two small volumes reviewed here might easily have been chapters in the larger book for they are integral parts of the Lake Okeechobee story and one must read all four books for a complete account.

Boats and Skippers is largely about steamboats and their gasoline-powered successors which operated on the big lake and its navigable arms, natural and artificial, until highways and railroads reached the lake in the nineteen-twenties. The stories of the boats and their almost legendary owner-captains are reminiscent of Mark Twain tales of steamboating on the Mississippi a half-century earlier. They make a colorful picture of the coming and the passing of an era in Florida history.

Though Lake Okeechobee is a big lake, second only to Lake Michigan of lakes lying wholly in the United States, it stretches the imagination to realize that the lowly catfish, likely to be considered a nuisance by fishermen interested in sport and unaware of its delightful flavor, was the basis of an industry on the lake that ranked in importance with carrying passengers and freight, and indeed, outlived the other two waterborne activities. At its height, it yielded as much as a million dollars a year. It began conveniently for recording in the year 1900, when Captain Benjamin Franklin Hall brought a refrigerator box and some trot lines from Kissimmee and set some alligator hunters on the lake to fishing. The catch proved so good that Captain Hall brought down a seine to increase the haul. The fish were carried to the nearest market served by a railroad, at first to Kissimmee which always remained the capital of the business, but later also to Fort Myers. When the New River Canal opened to Fort Lauderdale it became an outlet. Finally, when the railroad reached Tantie (Okeechobee) in 1915, it became the most convenient shipping point. Others joined Hall in the business. Tom Bass became the biggest operator with forty-five boats and eight refrigerated railroad cars. In 1945, the Florida legislature put an end to the business, and now catfish may be taken only with wire traps. But there is more to the story than catfishing. There are stories of people and places from Miami to Kissimmee and Palm Beach to Fort Myers, all by way of Lake Okeechobee and associated with catching, dressing, and marketing the catfish.

CHARLTON W. TEBEAU

University of Miami

The Negro in the Reconstruction of Florida, 1865-1877. By Joe M. Richardson. (Tallahassee: Florida State University, 1965. xi, 255 pp. Preface, bibliography, index. $7.00.)

In this excellent monograph, Professor Richardson fully describes the role of the Negro in the Reconstruction of this southern-most state. Writing in an open, lucid style, he depicts Negroes as they emerge from slavery into freedom, and traces their progress in the areas of economics, religion, and education, and in civil and political affairs. Progress is indeed a proper word for Professor Richardson's findings. Negroes came to relish their freedom early, he asserts, and they used that liberty to become money-saving laborers and landowners, to establish independent churches as forces of moral uplift, to provide the state with a program for public education, and to become full and useful citizens in the courtrooms, at the polls, and in public offices. "By the end of Reconstruction," Richardson concludes, Negroes "were probably as good citizens as any race of similar economic standing." To say that Negroes were in any sense as good as whites does injury enough to the ideals of the white fathers and grandfathers of the South, but Professor Richardson soon moves forward to add insult by questioning the divinity of redemption. "As far as the future of the Negro was concerned," he declares, "and perhaps the state at large, it was unfortunate that Republicans lost office in 1876." Strong words these, and words which place the author in the very vanguard of a revisionist interpretation that maintains, to the screaming horror of its elders, that Reconstruction was a positive good rather than an unmitigated evil.

The reader might surmise that behind such boldness there lies a polemical purpose, that upon this tastefully executed volume there stands an orator of the new abolitionist school. Such is the case, I think, but unlike many of his more prolific colleagues, Professor Richardson rests his case upon a prodigious amount of basic research-particularly in the manuscripts and newspapers. The presumption is that his conclusions represent something more than wishful thinking. If one is inclined to disagree with him, his evidence will have to be met, not dismissed. Challenge is further daunted by the ring of truth about the study. The Negro observed in the rapid flow of the Second Reconstruction makes the author's image of the Negro in the First fully credible. But,

more centrally, one senses that Richardson has touched the pulse of the South as he recounts the vital determination of white Floridians to keep theirs a white man's country. As we read the book we seem to hear an off-stage chorus chanting in slow and steady measure the constant reminder that "white is right." And it is difficult to decide from where this music comes: from the substance of the volume we hold, or from the distilled words and deeds of racist fundamentalism still rampant in our own day, from the horrendous violence of Birmingham, of Oxford, and of Philadelphia, Mississippi, which hangs about our necks as a symbol of our sin and our suffering.

Professor Richardson has produced an argumentative history, but it is good history, and it is a rock which will not, I think, be broken in our time.

JOEL WILLIAMSON

University of North Carolina

A Goodly Heritage: The Episcopal Church in Florida. By Joseph D. Cushman, Jr. (Gainesville: University of Florida Press, 1965. xiii, 219 pp. Illustrations, foreword, preface, bibliography, index. $6.50.)

The author of this fascinating volume has written a definitive and factual history of the beginnings of the Episcopal Church in Florida. Expertly he traces the development of the church from the first Anglicans, the first clergy, and the first buildings, through the formation of the Diocese of Florida in 1838, its vicissitudes during the Civil War, its rapid growth in the post-war years, to the happy necessity in 1892, of having to divide itself into two dioceses. *A Goody Heritage* not only takes its place in Americana, making a vital contribution to the national scene, but also becomes one of those indispensable additions to the growing interest in producing the history of Florida and its people. Professor Cushman has told his story of the Episcopal Church in Florida mainly around the episcopates of its first three bishops, each dynamic in leadership in his own right.

The author's style is easy flowing and makes for interesting reading. For the casual reader he enlivens his history with the

various ways men in the early days overcame the difficulties of travel and communication. For the historian he lines the bottom of every page with explanatory footnotes as well as keeping his narrative strictly consistent with the facts and evidence. He has taken the broad, diocesan, state-wide point of view, and has not lost himself in the details of any individual parish or mission. He had at his disposal the annual Journals of the Episcopal Diocese of Florida, newspapers of the period, and the works of former writers of elements of Florida Episcopal Church history. He also had the advantage of living in Florida and being able to visit many of the places of which he wrote. Dr. Cushman has kept a good balance in the amount of attention given to each of the critical periods in the life of the church.

HAMILTON WEST
Bishop of Florida

Jacksonville, Florida

The British Empire before the American Revolution. Volume XI. *The Triumphant Empire: The Rumbling of the Coming Storm, 1766-1770.* By Lawrence Henry Gipson. (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1965. lxix, 579, xxxv pp. Preface, illustrations, maps, index. $10.00.)

The British Empire before the American Revolution. Volume XII. *The Triumphant Empire: Britain Sails into the Storm, 1770-1776*. By Lawrence Henry Gipson. (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1965. lvii, 372, xxx pp. Preface, illustrations, maps, index. $10.00.)

With the appearance of Volumes XI and XII of his monumental *The British Empire before the American Revolution,* Lawrence H. Gipson has finally traveled the last miles of the long road from 1748 to 1776. Now we have for the first time a full scholarly examination of the origins of the Revolution from the point of view of the imperial school of historiography. The two volumes under consideration (along with volume ten that appeared in 1961) cover the momentous developments that divided the thirteen mainland colonies from the mother country following the Great War for the Empire. Many of the conclusions presented

are largely elaborations of Mr. Gipson's opinions expressed in his *Coming of the American Revolution, 1763-1775*. For, as the author acknowledges, "I have long been convinced, along with John Adams, that the Revolution was completed before the outbreak of what should properly be called the War for American Independence." Here in vivid, panoramic form is the story of the gradual separation of the English speaking peoples. According to Mr. Gipson, the clash was not so much over different theories or principles but over conflicting interests. Britain, confronted with enormous territorial acquisitions after 1763, and saddled with a staggering debt, endeavored to create more efficient administrative machinery, just as she attempted to get the provincials to contribute to the upkeep of the expanded empire. But the mature colonies, no longer threatened by French forces in Canada, were eager to pursue their own ends without interference from Parliament and the king's ministers.

As is customary of Gipson's work, these studies are rich in detail, well documented, well organized, and written in a smooth, readable style. In *The Rumbling of the Coming Storm, 1766-1770,* the author begins by tracing the efforts on both sides of the Atlantic aimed at reconciliation following the repeal of the Stamp Act. He then launches into the new controversies that soon erupted, emphasizing New York's opposition to the Quartering Act, the origins of the Townshend program, the Revenue Act of 1767, and the American response led by the radicals of Massachusetts Bay. The colonists could generally agree on their opposition to British taxes and other aspects of imperial reorganization, including western lands; but they could simultaneously disagree about a great many things, as the chapters on boundary disputes and East-West friction make abundantly clear.

Some readers may feel that the companion volume, Britain Sails into the Storm, 1770-1776, lacks balance. For these important six years are treated in only 372 pages, whereas the four years embraced in the previous tome are accorded 579 pages. It may be, however, that the author considers the concluding aspect of his story more familiar than the period of the Chatham and Grafton administrations. Even so, Mr. Gipson has revised his original plan of ending the narrative in 1775 by extending his account down to the Declaration of Independence.

A final volume in this remarkable series, *The Empire beyond*

the Storm, will deal with the British dependencies that did not revolt, in addition to offering sections on the historiography and bibliography of the "Old Empire." Historians will disagree among themselves on many of Mr. Gipson's findings, but they will never be able to ignore them. And few if any would deny that The British Empire before the American Revolution is one of the finest historical achievements of the twentieth century.

DON HIGGINBOTHAM

Louisiana State University

The Lamp of Experience: Whig History and the Intellectual Origins of the American Revolution. By H. Trevor Colbourn. (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press for the Institute of Early American History and Culture at Williamsburg, 1965. viii, 247 pp. Preface, appendices, index. $7.50.)

As in recent major studies by Caroline Robbins and Bernard Bailyn, Trevor Colbourn's book explores the American colonial understanding of the rights of Englishmen. His special *forte* lies in investigating the sources of that understanding and the historical perspective those sources provided. He therefore devotes considerable attention to the reading habits of the revolutionary intellectuals (and in a long appendix lists historical volumes in eighteenth-century American libraries-a significant contribution). The author finds that the colonists were selective in their use of history. They took seventeenth-century arguments against the Stuart kings and directed them against the eighteenth-century Parliament. The colonial achievement thus involved the adaptation of English historical writing to the exigencies of Anglo-American politics: "They used whig history, they used whig arguments, but their borrowing fed ideas and led to decisions appropriate only to the colonial circumstances."

Colbourn has structured his material into two parts. The first treats "the English heritage and the colonial historical view." The second, and longer section, discusses "the revolutionary use of history." There are chapters on New England and the South; but the most satisfying chapters treat the historical minds of John Adams, James Wilson, Dickinson, Franklin, and Jefferson. In

sum, the book adds to our recent rediscovery of the English libertarian tradition; and even more, it augments the current reformulation of the American Revolution as an intellectual movement.

It is perhaps ungracious to suggest that Colbourn's good book might have been better; but two points warrant some attention. The first involves the colonization issue. When the Great Debate raged between 1765 and 1775, one of the major questions in the dispute over the proper relationship of the colonies to the mother country hinged upon opposing conceptions of the nature of English colonization. Colbourn touches upon this obliquely in discussing John Adams and George Mason; but a more systematic treatment would have illuminated the interpretive use of historical knowledge in the colonies.

A second problem emerges from the need for clearer usage of the term "whig history," especially as it is the pivotal concept for this study. It is defined sketchily on page six, again on page 128, and then more adequately at the end of the book (pp. 183-189). Colbourn casts a broad net in describing reading habits and patterns of influence, and at times his catch would seem to include elements extraneous to True Whiggery. Can Hume *and* Mrs. Macaulay (who wrote a multi-volume history to refute Hume) both be part of a whig tradition in historical thought? Perhaps; but it requires some explanation. What about Jefferson's concern for Hume's "Jacobite outlook"? And in what tradition does Bolingbroke stand? He has customarily been labelled a defender of Tory thought. Yet his historical perspective unquestionably influenced John Adams, Josiah Quincy, Jr., and James Wilson. Possibly Bolingbroke has been cavalierly categorized in the past; but does that justify lumping him with the libertarian "True Whigs," whose reading of seventeenth-century history was quite different? Finally, if whig ideas were devoted to the preservation of parliamentary integrity at the expense of the Crown, what is to be said of the colonial position commonly held by 1774-that the only imperial bond was the Crown and not Parliament? These and other minor ambiguities might have been clarified at the outset by a more precise definition of "whig history" and the determinative patterns of thought embraced by it.

MICHAEL G. KAMMEN

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