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Book Reviews

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Gayoso: The Life of a Spanish Governor in the Mississippi Valley, 1789-1799. By Jack D. L. Holmes. (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1965. x, 305 pp. Illustration, preface, appendix, bibliography, index. \$7.50.)

This bibliographical study of Manuel Gayoso de Lemos, governor of the Natchez District from 1789 to 1797, fills a chink in the frontier history of the Old Southwest. Gayoso was one of the talented late eighteenth-century administrators whose devoted service makes this era notable in Spain's colonial history. Following his eight years' term developing the Natchez District, he served in New Orleans as governor-general of Louisiana and West Florida until his death in 1799. For some years, scholars have marked Gayoso as an outstanding figure, but the details of his regime and his personal history have not previously been the subject of special research.

The term "Natchez District" refers to an area in the province of West Florida south of the Yazoo River, extending east of the Mississippi River to vague boundary in Indian territory. Although originally French, the area was under British rule between the two Treaties of Paris in 1763 and 1783, and in 1797 it became part of the expanding American nation by terms of the Treaty of San Lorenzo in 1795. Gayoso's fluency in French and English, his cosmopolitan outlook, and his genial nature made him admirably suited to a command on the Mississippi River frontier. His training included education in England; in Natchez he married into the locally prominent Watts family. The staff at his Spanish outpost included an elderly jailor inherited from the French regime and an American aide, Stephen Minor, who had fought with Bernardo de Galvez' victorious Spanish army in British West Florida between 1779 and 1781.

The constructive program launched by Gayoso touched all aspects of life in the area. He laid out the town of Natchez, which by 1791 was a community of thirty houses. American immigration into the district brought rapid population growth. The population, estimated at 1,619 in 1784, had increased to 5,318 white and colored inhabitants by 1796. When Gayoso arrived in Natchez, tobacco was the most important cash crop, but the problems of marketing in accordance with the famous

Spanish trade restrictions brought persistent memorials from the planters to the Crown. Gayoso encouraged diversification of agriculture and cattle raising. Cattle brands were registered, and the quality of stock improved with the introduction of new strains from Texas. Cotton production, which was small in 1792, assumed a major role in the economy by 1795. Gayoso also promoted horseraising, and inaugurated a race track. His skill in the important matter of Indian diplomacy is attested by two treaties with the neighboring Chickasaw and Choctaw tribes who ceded land to the Spaniards for military posts.

In the exhaustive research for this volume, the author has consulted archives, libraries, and family records in the United States, Spain, Portugal, Cuba, and Mexico. A useful bibliography of manuscripts is included, but a general bibliography of numerous sources cited in footnotes is regrettably missing. The general reader will appreciate the vivid literary style, but may be puzzled occasionally by obscure allusions to other major historic events which are not adequately identified. If the peripheral territory remains obscure, it is probably because the spotlight focuses intentionally on Gayoso and his immediate surroundings. On the whole, Holmes' study is a welcome addition to the literature of the Spanish-American frontier. The field is almost ready for a new synthesis incorporating material written since Arthur P. Whitaker's definitive work published in 1927.

HELEN HORNBECK TANNER

The University of Michigan

Religious Strife on the Southern Frontier. By Walter Brownlow Posey. (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1965. x, 12 pp. Introduction. \$4.00.)

In these interestingly written lectures, Professor Posey discusses in three chapters the "strife" of "Protestants Against Protestants," "Protestants Against a New Sect" (the Disciples of Christ), and "Protestants Against Catholics." Because of the preponderance of religious studies on the North for this period between the Revolution and the Civil War, the author's focus here and in previous studies by him on the "Southern Frontier" is particularly welcome.

Though the author approaches the subject indirectly—through its results in strife—the book must be evaluated as a study of one of the most important characteristics of that time, the rise of American denominationalism. This was a part of the great cultural question of the day—what is the ideal of the human community, whether in state, business, or church? The author seems to approach the problem from an exclusively twentieth-century viewpoint, rather than judging the church by the limited contractual views of society which then prevailed. We read in the Introduction that “interdenominational relations . . . often displayed an unchristian sentiment.” Thus the case is prejudged by twentieth-century norms, rather than being investigated to discover what religious people of that era thought were the Christian norms for structuring and conducting the church. We read also that denominational “distinctive features, obviously insignificant as they might be with respect to eternal truths, were stressed as means of saving grace.” This is “obvious” enough to us, but it is exactly what was not obvious to men of that era. A much larger weight of differentiating confessional heritage was still vital to them, even though revivalism and rationalism were in process of leveling it down. The author states that James Madison “firmly believed that a multiplicity of sects would be the best means of securing and preserving religious liberties for Americans.” Here we have an authentic voice of the period, and its norm is division and multiplicity, affording the maximum of checks and balances.

Where the book avoids imposing twentieth-century norms uncritically on nineteenth-century material, it offers helpful suggestions for an inductive study of the nature of the church implied by the events and discussions in that era. The author reminds us that this was a time of new structuring, for the colonial churches had been “ineffectively organized.” Geographical and cultural differences encouraged denominational diversifications. There were pressures in some areas for lay leadership and theological simplification. The need for occupying new territories created strong pragmatic tendencies.

Along with the powerful forces of the time making for differentiation and strife among the churches, the author notes forces making for cooperation and greater unity. He finds these centripetal tendencies largely restricted to times of crisis—wars, re-

vivals, and plagues. Interestingly, he sees the increased sectionalism of the 1840s and 1850s contributing to greater Christian unity. The frontier, revivalism, and the voluntary societies all receive treatment. The last chapter on "Protestants Against Catholics" admirably brings out both sides of the case in a way that has too seldom been done. The book is an interesting and suggestive study.

LEFFERTS A. LOETSCHER

Princeton Theological Seminary

Disinherited: The Lost Birthright of the American Indian. By Dale Van Every. (New York: William Morrow and Company, 1966. 279 pp. Maps, bibliography, index. \$6.00.)

The study of breathtaking deceit and slow execution practiced upon one race by another makes sober reading, particularly when one is reading not of Nazi Germany but a volume dealing with American history. Though it goes much against good American grain, one comes to the conclusion not only that "it can happen here," but that it *has* happened here. Mr. Van Every has detailed chapter and verse of the destruction of all but a remnant of the eastern American Indian, and he has played a clinical historical light on the deeds of both Andrew Jackson, who, in another time and place, seemingly could have ordered the troops to herd Jews aboard a train bound for Belsen, and the frontiersman who could set a torch to an Indian village with all the elan of a storm-trooper.

Mr. Van Every has given us the background of both sides in the terrible but unequal struggle that led to the Removal Act of 1830 and detailed the ever weakening resistance of those red men who finally followed the Trail of Tears to the western plains. And it comes as a shock to discover that we are not reading here of the usually small numbers involved in most historical events of the nineteenth century and before. Herded along the road from the eastern seaboard to the plains came some 30,000 men, women, and children, harried and preyed upon by the great majority of the white people who lined the gauntlet, and the graves of at least 5,000 were lost in the footsteps of those who followed.

With equal honesty the author has documented the good guys and the bad; those men, red and white, high and low, who perpetrated unconscionable deeds as well as those who, though defeated, had been true and loyal.

Technically, one meets perhaps a dozen sentences in *Disinherited* where improved syntax would have added clarity, but these are trip-wires rather than stumbling blocks in a work that will remain important on "The Lost Birthright of the American Indian." Certainly the conflict of races dealt with here is an especially worthwhile current study for the thoughtful reader who will see amazing parallels with the extremists, the bigots, and the quiet workers for reason of both races who occupy the lands of the American Indian today, which is to say de whole of these United States. And the lessons of these struggles of the past to which we yet have found no final answers may be put again to our united races within the life span of men now living when we make contact with a race beyond the stars.

FRANK LAUMER

Dade City, Florida

Ironmaker to the Confederacy: Joseph R. Anderson and the Tredegar Iron Works. By Charles B. Dew. (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1966. xiv, 345 pp. Preface, illustrations, tables, figures, appendix, bibliographical essay, index. \$10.00.)

Mr. Dew has made a valuable contribution, not only to our knowledge of the Confederacy, but also to a better understanding of the problems of using slave labor in industry. In a scholarly fashion he has explored a rich mine of source material and has gone considerably ahead of the good study of Kathleen Bruce, *Virginia Iron Manufacture in the Slave Era*. He has discovered the interesting fact that after the proprietor, Joseph Reid Anderson, suppressed the famous strike of the white mechanics in 1847 and had trained and successfully used Negro labor in the skilled processes of the iron industry, there occurred a marked decline by the end of the 1850s in the proportion of slaves employed within the total labor force. Such a decline does not seem to have been

primarily due to the inefficiency of Negro workers but rather to the sharp increase in the hiring prices of slaves. Dew's study throws much light on the growing practice in the Old South of hiring slaves. He shows that the incentive system to encourage the efficiency and production of the hired slaves worked very well in the Tredegar Iron Works, as it did on many of the plantations of the pre-war South. One of the most significant conclusions of the author is, that although the use of slaves in the Tredegar Works after they were trained, cut production costs by twelve per cent, nevertheless, Tredegar's cost of labor in producing manufactured iron was far more expensive than the cost of free labor in northern rolling mills and was three times more expensive than such labor in the European iron industry. This situation occurred despite the fact that Joseph Reid Anderson was a manager of great ability. The Negro slaves that were employed in the Virginia iron industry were able to develop the skill, were willing, even eager, to learn, and had the capacity to become successful workers in southern industry. The apparent failure in the Tredegar experiment in peace time conditions seems to have been owing to the psychological effects of slavery both on the Negroes and on the southern whites.

Under the stress of war and the consequent great shortage of labor, the Tredegar Works employed increasing numbers of hired slaves, and Mr. Dew has shown how important the slaves were to the Confederate war efforts. After the war, under the free labor system, Tredegar continued to employ a large number of Negro hands, consisting of nearly one-half of the labor force. During the war the company tended to placate their Negro workers by a more relaxed discipline and greater rewards (and this liberality seems to have been practiced on the plantations also). This study of the operations of the greatest iron company in the Confederacy extends far beyond the confines of a particular private enterprise and illuminates many aspects of life in the Confederacy, especially the operation of conscription, labor details, the blockade, ordnance, government aid to private industry, inflation, and the morale of the southern people.

CLEMENT EATON

University of Kentucky

The Southern States Since the War: 1870-71. By Robert Somers. Introduction and index by Malcolm C. McMillan. (Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 1965. xxi, 293 pp. Introduction, preface, map, index. \$5.95.)

Robert Somers, well-known British journalist, came to this country in 1870 to study firsthand the social, economic, and political effects of the Civil War on the South. *The Southern States Since the War, 1870-71* is a journal of Somer's travels through these devastated states.

The author began his journey in Washington after a pilgrimage to Mount Vernon in late October 1870. In the course of five months he visited Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, and Louisiana, and collected much vital information through the use of personal interviews, census returns, political documents, and reliable articles and reports on economic and agricultural developments. It is unfortunate that this shrewd and observant Scot did not visit Florida also, for he might have thrown a dispassionate light on the chaotic affairs of the state during the controversial administration of its first Republican governor, Harrison Reed.

Although the book contains some minor errors, these are mistakes that might easily be made by a foreigner taking his maiden trip to the South. The book is a primary source of substantially accurate information and as such is of great value to historians of the Reconstruction Era. The "revisionists" will be especially interested in Somers's material on railroad travel, industrial and agricultural development, and the state of the newly-freed Negroes. The author's jottings are pertinent and fair and should be of interest to the general reader as well as the historian.

We are indebted to Professor Malcolm McMillan, Research Professor of History at Auburn University, for this reissue of Somers's travels. His scholarly introduction, and detailed index add to the value of the original work which has been out of print for many years. The McMillan edition is a happy contribution to the literature of Southern Reconstruction history.

JOSEPH D. CUSHMAN, JR.

Florida State University

Southerner. By Charles Longstreet Weltner. (Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company, 1966. 188 pp. \$3.95.)

Charles Longstreet Weltner has divided this small but provocative volume into three parts. In the first he sketches his Georgia boyhood, student days at Oglethorpe and Columbia University Law School (from which he graduated at twenty-two), and his first years as an attorney in Atlanta. Included also is the account of his increasing interest in politics, his election and reelection to Congress, and his inner struggles as he tried to harmonize southern tradition which he respected, with "change, swift and certain" which he realized must come. This is not an egotistical, self-righteous defense, nor is it political propaganda. It is too forthright, soul-searching, and uninhibited to conceal political motives. Rather it is as sincere and outspoken as the author has always been, the man who dared to break with Georgia political tradition.

The second part of *Southerner* traces the Negro as an issue in United States history since 1619 when the first Negroes were brought to Jamestown, until the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The historian may question some of the author's statements and interpretations, including his mention of the first Negroes being slaves. Recent research has indicated that they probably were indentured servants, yet slavery did develop in Virginia by the mid-seventeenth century. The revisionists will not agree with all he says about the failures of reconstruction, but he is correct in stating that the race problem was not solved in this period and was repeatedly postponed by later generations. Weltner's analysis and explanation of Southerners' reactions should meet with no opposition from the historian.

In the last section of the book Weltner makes a common-sense appeal for the South to view its problems logically and realistically. Recognizing that the area has always resented outside criticism, the author reminds Southerners that this can be expected unless they move ahead voluntarily. Being a good Southerner and a Democrat, he supports the inevitability of change by quoting Thomas Jefferson: "Nothing is unchangeable but the inherent and unalienable rights of man." He traces the innumerable lost causes for which the South has fought and states that the time

has come for the region to win its battles, but to win it must fight for positive, not negative objectives—the elimination of “all disparities in education, income, public services, health standards, and economic opportunities.” Because poverty is the major impediment to progress and “the South is poor because the Negro is poor,” something must be done for this group which composes one-fifth of the population. But revised thinking on other economic matters is also essential. He suggests the road to be taken if a three party system is to be avoided, for he predicts that since Southern Democrats will not be at home in the national party, there will emerge Democrats, Republicans, and Southern Republicans. This will only injure the South’s standing in the nation. Weltner reminds the reader that “southern moderates are not necessarily advocates of civil rights legislation, or sweeping changes in social patterns. They are simply Southerners who do not make race-baiting a way of life.”

Congressman Weltner wrote this book “to demonstrate practical opportunity” for the South. Its province, he says, is politics, history, and economics, not ethics, ideals, and morals. He is, however, a practical person who has ideals, a sense of ethics, and high moral standards. A sensitive and sensible pragmatist who loves the South and its people, he recognizes all too well the problems and agony in the situation. While this is a serious treatise, Weltner’s sense of humor shines through and nowhere better than when laughing at himself.

MARY ELIZABETH MASSEY

Winthrop College

Diamond Anniversary Faculty Essays. Edited by Charles V. Smith, James Hudson, and Charles J. Stanley, Jr. (Tallahassee: Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, 1962. 117 pp. Foreword.)

An important aspect of the celebration of the Diamond Anniversary of the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University was a symposium that was provided by fourteen members of the faculty. The general theme of the celebration which continued throughout the year, 1962, was: “FAMU: Illustrious Past—Challenging Future.”

Each participating faculty member contributed an essay on a subject of his own choosing in accordance with interests in his field of scholarship. The essays published in 1966, represent considerable variety as to subject matter, style, and scope of treatment. Taken as a whole, they provide the reader with some indication as to the personalities who comprise the faculty at the University.

The symposium consists of thirteen essays following an introduction by way of overview by Professor Charles J. Stanley, Jr. The essays seem to fall roughly into four groups. Three essays provide brief historical treatment and interpretation of some distinguishing aspects of the early land-grant college as represented in the departments of agriculture, home economics, and vocational-technical education. A second group of essays deal with aspects of the improvement of teaching. One of these essays provides special emphasis on the improvement of teaching at the college level. It cites evidences of need for such improvement and draws freely from educational literature for specific suggestions.

The remaining essays deal with various aspects of social change and their implications for the future development of the university. One gives consideration to current trends in social change, including population projections and the imbalances that appear in various areas of our society. Another deals with the subject of human values in relation to our teaching of the humanities in college. The final essay of this group presents a critical discussion of the systems of justification that relate to "natural rights, organicism, and utilitarianism."

The nature of treatment in the essays varies as much as does the subject matter that is presented. Throughout the series, however, there runs a common thread that reflects the interest of the Florida A and M faculty whose members are willing and able to appreciate the developments of the past seventy-five years in the University, and to project their concepts of possible developments in the years that lie ahead.

DOAK S. CAMPBELL

Florida State University

On Teaching History in Colleges and Universities. By Earl R. Beck. (Tallahassee: Florida State University Studies, 1966. xiii, 157 pp. Preface, appendix, index. \$5.50.)

From the richness of his own experience and observation Dr. Beck of Florida State University gives us, briefly, his definition of history, the usefulness of a study of history, advice to the college youth who is planning to do graduate work in the field, and the most satisfactory methods of doing research and teaching history. Beck does not reach out for philosophical or psychological subtleties. He works along practical lines, and the most of his "suggested readings," given at the end of nearly every chapter, are more practical than theoretical.

The lecture method of teaching can be useful and interesting to students and teachers, according to Professor Beck; but a proper class discussion "presents a better teaching vehicle." The lecture serves best to introduce an area of study, to bring out "analysis," "interpretation," "causes," "consequences," and "the significance of historical developments." The lecture must be designed to meet the needs of the particular students who will hear it; and the lecturer should make a serious effort to discover these needs. This is so important, the author holds, that the professor should obtain biographical data and photographs from every student.

Beck suggests methods of getting the most benefit from class discussions in history. Preparation must be made, but only the broad lines of discussion should be worked out in advance. It is "positively harmful" to make out carefully detailed "lesson plans." Students must be allowed to express themselves freely, not just to ask and answer questions. Means must be found to prevent the discussion from being dominated by a few "aggressive personalities." The instructor must try to "separate fact from fiction" as it comes from the students, and he must try to "expose fuzzy thinking." Yet care must be exercised to avoid "wounding sensitive personalities and killing initiative."

Most history teachers of whatever level, will find that much of the material of this book is familiar. There are few teachers, however, who will not profit from reading it, for it is a sound summary and a happy reminder. Other subjects handled with wit and prudence are teaching the survey course, conducting a gradu-

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ate seminar, directing students who are doing research, choosing topics for research, and how to behave toward teachers of other disciplines. Beck deplores the persistent tendency of American historians to specialize, and of professors to urge their students into narrow fields of research, leaving too little room for broad understanding.

GILBERT L. LYCAN

Stetson University