

# Florida Historical Quarterly

---

Volume 46  
Number 1 *Florida Historical Quarterly*, Vol 46,  
Number 1

Article 10

---

1967

## Book Reviews

Florida Historical Society  
membership@myfloridahistory.org



Part of the [American Studies Commons](#), and the [United States History Commons](#)

Find similar works at: <https://stars.library.ucf.edu/fhq>

University of Central Florida Libraries <http://library.ucf.edu>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by STARS. It has been accepted for inclusion in Florida Historical Quarterly by an authorized editor of STARS. For more information, please contact [STARS@ucf.edu](mailto:STARS@ucf.edu).

---

### Recommended Citation

Society, Florida Historical (1967) "Book Reviews," *Florida Historical Quarterly*. Vol. 46: No. 1, Article 10.  
Available at: <https://stars.library.ucf.edu/fhq/vol46/iss1/10>

## BOOK REVIEWS

*A Dredgeman of Cape Sable.* By Lawrence E. Will. (St. Petersburg, Florida: Great Outdoors Publishing Company, 1967. 155 pp. Photographs, map. \$1.50.)

Admittedly, this reviewer is a pushover for the sawgrassy vernacular of that "Cracker Historian of the Everglades," Lawrence E. Will, who has authored such choice tidbits as *A Cracker History of Okeechobee and Okeechobee Hurricane and the Hoover Dike*, as well as many short articles in various historical quarterlies.

One of these articles, on the Cape Sable Canal, appeared in *Tequesta* (the journal of the Historical Association of Southern Florida), in 1959, and was made the subject of a column, "Digging the 'Soup-Doodle Muck' Canal," in the *Tampa Tribune*, March 22, 1964. Since this reviewer wrote the column, he feels he may speak freely.

Mr. Will has taken the *Tequesta* article and has skillfully expanded it into nineteen chapters, with intriguing titles (Fillymingo, Soup Doodle Prairie, Mosquitoes Did I Say, Lake of Grief, The Storm on Labor Day, etc.). Expansion, like uncontrolled overweight, is a dangerous thing. This book still has flashes throughout of the brilliance of the original article, but one gets the feeling that the unexpected chuckles are fewer, and that Mr. Will's naturally spontaneous humor is sometimes being forced out through the containing slats of names and statistics. The names and statistics are there all right, and in abundance, too, and anyone who has ever read him is bound to recognize the accuracy and the painstaking research concealed beneath the lightness of Lawrence Will.

Let's take a quick look at "Fillymingo": "Blondy and I, one Sunday, decided to explore the City of Flamingo. At that time, from where we had started to dig, the dredge had continued two miles west, then made a left turn towards the bay a mile and three quarters ahead, but she still was in the tall mangrove swamp.

"After walking a short piece through the woods we emerged into a beautiful little clearing carpeted with what looked like

Bermuda grass and dotted with a few small trees, a delightful vista after all those miles of dark swamp. . . .

“But where in the heck was the settlement? All we could see was three miserable houses. One high, dismal looking and abandoned building stood half a mile to the westward, which, as we later learned, belonged to Coleman Irwin who had moved to Homestead the year before. . . .

“So this was the town of Flamingo! Three crying houses! . . .”

And this is just a flash of the Willisiana staccato history that we have learned to expect and enjoy. Follow it (as has been done) with four solid pages of encyclopedic data-names, dates, numbers, and dimensions-and you can't see the type for the figures.

The blurb says: “This is the fifth book turned out by . . . Lawrence E. Will-and in the opinion of his publisher, the best of the series. Followers of . . . Mr. Will have been saying that he would never be able to top his ‘Cracker History of Okeechobee,’ . . . but it appears that he done [*sic*] just that.”

Sorry, Mr. Publisher, peers like you been breathin' down his neck. He ain't!

BAYNARD KENDRICK

*Leesburg, Florida*

*Checkered Sunshine: The Story of Fort Lauderdale, 1793-1955.*

By Philip J. Weidling and August Burghard. (Gainesville: University of Florida Press, 1966. x, 296 pp. Preface, photographs, maps, appendices, bibliography, index. \$8.50.)

This volume, sponsored by the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society, is written by two men who have witnessed and participated in the city's growth, Weidling since 1912, and Burghard since 1925. The authors state in the preface that they “have striven to tell exactly what happened, without attempting to tell why or to analyze.” What they have produced is considerably more than the mere chronological Listing of events that this statement implies. Rather, it is a fast moving narrative account of the ups and downs of a community as it is affected by changes in transportation, depressions, and war and peace. The story is told

largely in terms of the people who made the successes and failures that make up the checkered career of the community. More than 150 illustrations add authenticity and human interest and tell a story of their own.

The story of Fort Lauderdale is largely the story of South Florida in miniature, long and slow doldrums followed by phenomenal growth in the last quarter of a century in which the same generation has witnessed the transition from frontier village to sophisticated metropolis. The first permanent resident, Frank Stranahan, arrived in 1893. His wife, who came there to teach in the first school in 1899 and married him the next year, still reigns as Fort Lauderdale's first lady. There were temporary residents as early as 1793, when Charles Lewis, whose son and daughter were associated with early Miami, took up land there. The Seminole War depopulated the area early in 1836 and gave it its name when Major William Lauderdale established a fort there in the spring of 1838. In 1876, when the locality had one resident of record, the United States government established a House of Refuge on the beach there, one of five on the desolate and uninhabited South Atlantic coast. In 1891, a post office superseded the barefoot mailman who had begun regular service from Jupiter Inlet to Miami five years earlier. The Florida East Coast Railroad reached the settlement in 1896, it then relieved it of dependence upon water transport, but it did not immediately produce a revolution in its fortunes. There were enough people for a school in 1899. Farming and the Indian trade remained the most important occupations; the age of beach development, tourism, and recreation still lay far in the future. The federal census of 1900 reported fifty-two people in the village and only 143 ten years later. In 1910, a bank replaced Stranahan's store as the center for all financial transactions, and the next year the town received its charter. Drainage operations early in the century extended the reach of New River by canal all the way to Lake Okeechobee but failed to produce the commercial and agricultural center some had hoped for. The land boom of the early 1920s left "busted" hopes and an impossibly high public debt. The Florida depression of the late twenties and the national depression of the thirties followed. Then, when recovery seemed in sight, the Second World War intervened before the modern city

with a character and problems of its own could emerge. The story is concluded in 1955, interestingly enough with a chapter titled "The Great Clean-Up, 1948-1955," another milestone in the checkered career of a community reaching maturity.

CHARLTON W. TEBEAU

*University of Miami*

*Ocali Country: Kingdom of the Sun, 1539-1965.* By Eloise Robinson Ott and Louis Hickman Chazal. (Oklawaha, Florida: Marion Publishers Inc., 1966. 245 pp. Illustrations, maps. \$7.50.)

Historical societies ought to give some kind of special recognition to those devoted and often unsung authors of local histories like Mrs. Eloise Robinson Ott and Mr. Louis Hickman Chazal. For local historians, whatever might be said of the quality or polish in their finished works, have one thing in common. They love the communities of which they write; and their devotion is measured against the truest test of all: a willingness to labor monumentally with very little hope of gain or even satisfactory recognition.

It has always been somewhat of a commentary and a definite irony that Florida, so rich in history, does so little with it, relatively speaking. Thus, this book was researched and written laboriously over a period of many years and finally, brought to publication at the personal expense of the authors. And withal, it is a good book. It is well written, organized coherently, and develops its theme logically. The narrative flows smoothly and dresses its essential facts in a style considerably superior to many local-type histories. There is a good balance as well, in the measure of anecdote and the colorful, personal touches that can be brought to history only by those personally involved with it even though that involvement be but a matter of sensitive feeling for a place-and empathy with its people, past and present.

Marion County is perhaps one of the better publicized regions in Florida because of the location there of Silver Springs. But,

as is the case with so many other vitally interesting and genuinely significant historical areas in the state, its meaningful history is hardly known. Seen in this light, *Ocali Country* is an impressive contribution to Floridiana. It goes back to the earliest penetrations of the state by white men in the 1500s and touches briefly on ancient Indian cultures that existed in the area centuries before that time.

*Ocali*, from which the present city of Ocala draws its name, is a derivative of an ancient Indian place name whose meaning has become obscured in time. Even the exact location of the village bearing that name is unknown today, although various historians have advanced theories regarding this. From earliest times the area has figured importantly in Central Florida history and development. It is a fertile, picturesque region of rivers, lakes, springs, and creeks including the Withlacoochee and the splendid Oklawaha, Lake Weir, and Orange Lake, and Rainbow, Juniper, and Silver Springs. Here, many crucial and exciting developments in the Second Seminole War occurred, among them the massacre at Fort King and the earliest development of Silver Springs as a river port used by the military to ship supplies to Fort King and the interior. A great many fascinating characters flit across the pages, caught in the grip of events of helping shape them as Ocala and Marion County were carried from these earliest times through the Civil War, the phosphate boom, the rise and decline of steamboating, and on into the twentieth century with its present promise of new wealth and development in the magnificent horse farms and Cross-Florida Barge Canal now building.

An excellent selection of illustrations—maps, engravings, and photographs—illuminate the history and help recapture the flavor of bygone eras.

Regrettably, traditional methods of annotation were not adopted by the authors, a common failure of local historians. There are many facts and interpretations which prompt curiosity from the reader on sources or bases in fact. But this is not an important criticism, for obviously this book is not written to please historians. Rather, it is written in an attempt to bring together in one place the salient points of history about one of the most ancient and colorful of Florida counties.

*Jacksonville, Florida*

RICHARD A. MARTIN

*Palm Beach: The Palace, The People, Its Pleasures and Palaces.*

By John Ney. (Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1966. 303 pp. Illustrations, acknowledgments. \$7.95.)

A carelessly organized effort, this book is largely pretentious trivia-glib vignettes and random observations, interlaced with ponderous expositions of the author's views on current social trends. He likes to pontificate. A glaring lack of scholarship is evident, and the portions of the book purporting to deal with local history, unhampered by research, are sketchy and inaccurate. The author invents a past to fit his interpretation of the present, substituting fantasy and legend for facts. Rather than a balanced, informative picture of Palm Beach, past and present, which the reader is led to expect, the volume presents a trashy cartoon of the resort aimed at the pocketbook of the boorish, the vulgar, the uninformed and uninitiated. Banalities abound. The author places considerable burden on the reader in delineating between fact and fiction. In the final chapter, he abdicates all responsibility in the matter by stating categorically, "Everything one says about Palm Beach can be - and usually is - contradicted. . . ; To the best of my knowledge this is true, and if it conflicts with what you have just read, it is still true." In effect, tales are told, but there is neither assurance of veracity nor accuracy.

Despite his vaunted sophistication, Mr. Ney plainly stands in awe of the rich and regards them with wonder (and perhaps fear) as a race apart. He takes an adolescent delight in denigrating them - washing their dirty linen in public - as if to surprise and astound the reader with his own discovery that they are just mortals, after all. He acknowledges in passing some normalcy in the population, and has given due credit to the climate and landscape, but seemingly these brief passages are a foil alone, for the balance is irresponsibly tipped to the side of scandal, weakness, and everything base in the human character. It is easier to be negative than positive in any broad evaluation. A bar near the Palm Beach Biltmore, apparently a chief source of the author's information, is erroneously referred to as a place where "sooner or later you will see almost everyone in Palm Beach." Actually the bar is a hangout of gossipy domestic help, augmented on occasion by a few lusher-one of whom, a rich

coarse-mouthed old crone, is quoted with great relish by Mr. Ney as representative of the decadent classes.

Mr. Ney exploits the interest value of the Kennedy cult with forty pages of movie magazine prose concerning what he calls the Royal Family, and displays a staggering naivete in describing Kennedy as reluctantly bowing to a popular mandate in accepting the presidency. The reader is subjected to endless nonsensical speculations on the author's part. His treatment is impertinent and embarrassing. History fares poorly, for pioneer Flagler is pictured first as an exploiter, later as a feeble fool, while Addison Mizner and Paris Singer are a parody team ending in justified poverty. Selectivity of detail is coupled with morality fable form for desired judgment effect. Numerous other pioneer families are passed in silence, major medical and other community institutions of quality are ignored, and worthy charities are sneered at.

Indeed, omission and generality alternate, for there is no genuine historical perspective. Even latter-day history is treated with gossip-like superficiality and paste-pot padding from newspaper columns. It is strange to note that important community representatives go virtually unmentioned, monuments and sites are treated summarily, and names (often misspelled) are dropped indiscriminately. All seems sprung whole like Athena from the head of Zeus, not unlike the author who joined the community a scant few years ago. Mr. Ney's criticism of Cleveland Amory's works on Palm Beach appears more accurately descriptive of his own: ". . . if you want a firmer grip on the place, a deeper understanding of its haunted [*sic*] inhabitants, you will not find it in his work."

JAMES R. KNOTT  
GEORGE L. HERN, JR.

*West Palm Beach, Florida*

*History of Hollywood (1920-1950)*. By Virginia Elliot TenEick.  
(Hollywood, Florida: The City of Hollywood, 1966. xxxiv,  
412 pp. Foreword, preface, prologue, photographs. \$8.50.)

Looking back upon the first ten years of his hometown's life, remembering what had been and, more importantly, what could



or should have been, the Hollywood, Florida, pioneer's reaction, in January 1930, was apt to be one of shock and disbelief. Now one among 2,000 citizens, the pioneer recalled the winter season of 1925-1926 - that was the high water mark of the South Florida land boom - when 30,000 people crowded the town; when not a room was to be had and cots rented for \$5.00 per night, and when traffic stretched bumper-to-bumper, "tin lizzie" next to elegant limousine, from Jacksonville to Miami on a one-lane cart road because the railroads and buses had not one seat to spare. People came in droves to Florida in those days, magnetized or hypnotized by the lure of untold profits in the land or just the climate itself: prospective land buyers, eager high pressure salesmen, plain and nationally known sightseers, and the not-so-nice, "get-rich-quick binder boys," who bought and sold land options with ever-increasing speed and at ever-increasing prices. And there was, of course, the man who came to work and to live there, the one who was to make a reality of Hoosier Joseph Young's vision of Hollywood as a "Dream City."

But Hollywood had its tomorrows. The real estate bubble burst in the spring of 1926, as the threat of a tax on land gain profits seemed imminent and as Florida began to suffer from national publicity. Land prices crashed, and fortunes raced downhill with them. Installment payments were no longer met, and foreclosures became the rule of the day. As the shockwaves of the land debacle subsided, the great September 1926 hurricane caught the little town without warning, and set it up for the national depression to finish off. The pioneer, in January 1930, could hardly have been optimistic about his town's future. Hollywood survived, however, and it emerged from the depression of the 1930s, rebuilding itself as it went along, on more solid foundations. When the nation went to war in the 1940s, wartime activities centered in Hollywood brought new residents and new money, injecting a new vitality into its economy and social life.

Journalist-author TenEick has served well the cause of Florida local history with this intimate and warmly written account of her hometown. Her pages are replete with factual details pertaining mainly to Hollywood's social and economic past. Especially valuable to one interested in Hollywood as a case study of the great growth and sometimes turbulent times which overtook pen-

insular Florida in the period 1920 to 1950, are the inclusion of many photographs and personal interviews with the people who helped make this town's history. Although this is a publication of the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce, and Mrs. TenEick writes about an era in which she was an active participant, she has treated her subject candidly and thoroughly.

JULIAN I. WEINKLE

*University of Miami*

*Flight From A Firing Wall.* By Baynard Kendrick. (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1966. 254 pp. Foreword, epilogue. \$4.50.)

Although this book was published under a mystery imprint and deals with high adventure, in its true essence it is a documentary. The author explains that it was begun in 1960, as a factual account of what had been going on among Cuban refugees in Florida and in Cuba itself, since Castro betrayed his liberal friends and supporters by turning into a Moscow-dominated dictator. Finally, after the international situation had become even more appallingly complex, and was changing with such feverish rapidity that he couldn't keep up with it, Baynard Kendrick decided to cast his book in the form of fiction-at which he has been successful for many years. Even so, this book was written as "a composite picture of actual happenings in an authentic setting." Mr. Kendrick assures us that almost all the story is true.

The setting for the most part is Miami, where the tenacious hopes and persistent fears of the uprooted grow from the quagmire of international intrigue that lies-unrecognized except by the initiate-beneath the smooth surface of wealth and whoopee. *Flight From a Firing Wall* thus becomes a record of what will one day be looked back on as a dramatic and significant period in Florida's history.

The year is 1965, and the story is told by the protagonist, Dr. Anthony Carrillo, who was born in Cuba, went to prep school in Connecticut, and married a Cuban girl, Milagros. In 1961, they tried to escape. He got away, but she was wounded in

a dockside incident. Carrillo, who is completely bilingual, is now on the staff of the Veterans' Hospital in Coral Gables. Just after the story opens, his hated father-in-law appears, aboard a luxurious yacht, and tells him that Milagros is still alive in Cuba. From that moment, it is a foregone conclusion that Carrillo will try to get back to Cuba and try to rescue his wife. How he goes about that, and how it turns out, makes an engrossing tale, which ends with a snapper that even the most experienced mystery addict is unlikely to foresee.

Obviously, descriptions of both Florida and Cuba are written from personal knowledge, and the foreword's list of authoritative individuals and organizations that have contributed "unremitting advice and assistance" in gathering not-too-easily-available information is an impressive one. The continuity moves along swiftly, but the author does not hesitate to clothe its bones in flesh, and for many readers his interpolated comments will form one of the most attractive features. Those comments—usually satiric—may not always be essential to the matter of what happens to Dr. Carrillo, but they are often informative and always amusing. Once in a while, translation of phrases becomes awkward; but in general the difficult problem of presenting dialogue that is sometimes in English, sometimes in Spanish, is handled adroitly.

Baynard Kendrick has written some thirty mysteries, many of them about the blind detective, Duncan McLean, and of course he uses the techniques of involvement and suspense with casual expertness. He has also written numerous factual articles and books, including *Florida Trails to Turnpikes, 1914-1964*. He is also the author of many novels, of which *Lights Out*, about a blinded veteran, and *The Flames of Time*, a Florida story, are probably the most enduring. In certain ways, this *Firing Wall* is closer to *Lights Out* than to the mysteries, for the author is speaking of Cuba and the Cubans from a full heart. Though he does not preach, he is telling us a great deal about what this particular brand of totalitarianism is like, and what it means to lose one's personal liberty.

MARIAN MURRAY

*Sarasota, Florida*

*Colonial South Carolina: A Political History, 1663-1763.* By M. Eugene Sirmans. Foreword by Wesley Frank Craven. (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press for The Institute of Early American History and Culture at Williamsburg, 1966. xv, 394 pp. Preface, bibliographical essay, index. \$10.00.)

Before his untimely death in 1965, M. Eugene Sirmans had virtually completed the volume under review. Wesley Frank Craven, who directed Sirmans' graduate studies, and James Morton Smith, formerly editor of publications at the Institute of Early American History and Culture, worked devotedly in preparing Sirmans' manuscript for publication. They wisely avoided making debatable revisions, especially where the author's interpretations were concerned. As Professor Craven justly writes in his foreword: "No other scholar has written a comparably revealing and convincing account of South Carolina's early political history. The book promises to be the standard study for many years to come. . . ." Sirmans' subtitle must not be taken too literally. He appreciated the social and economic dimensions of political behavior, and those dimensions are not slighted. Equally important to a study in colonial history, Sirmans was sensitive to the importance of London politics, its impact upon provincial affairs, and the consequent need for influence at Whitehall.

The author divides his subject into three chronological units: the age of the Goose Creek men, 1670-1712; breakdown and recovery, 1712-1743; and the rise of the Commons House of Assembly, 1743-1763. When Governor Charles Craven arrived in 1712, the early political factions had begun to disappear. During his administration they faded altogether. New issues appeared and new factions formed around them. The chief reason for the change, according to Sirmans, was the diminution of religious antagonisms. Anglicans and dissenters minimized their differences, and the colony's public life entered a new phase, characterized by proprietary neglect, paper money problems, and frontier conflicts with Indian tribes. The appearance of Governor James Glen in 1743, heralded the beginning of a still different era. The cyclical pattern of conflict and compromise was replaced by a remarkable measure of internal harmony. There

were still disputes, of course, but as Sirmans observes, "they concerned only the assembly and did not divide the general public into opposing factions." Rather the governor, council, and Commons House pushed and tugged at each other in defining the distribution of constitutional authority in the province. The nature of their disputes is excellently related. Chapter ten, treating the colony at mid-century, is a model of its kind in examining the structure of political society in conjunction with the development and functioning of public institutions.

Sirmans made no attempt to conceal his partialities. Where the Goose Creek faction confronts Thomas Nairne and his associates, for example, we are not in doubt about the author's sympathies. The book is more interesting as a result, and I found myself agreeing with him in most cases. Because he believed that "politics at its best is the art of the possible," Sirmans most respected those politicians who adjusted conflicts rather than initiated them. His heroes then are John Archdale, Francis Nicholson, Robert Johnson, and William Bull, Sr.; yet they are not enshrined in any pantheon.

The narrative pathway is always clear, no matter how thick the factual underbrush. There are a few minor slips and occasional inconsistencies, but they do not detract from the volume's great value. The bibliographical essay deserves particular praise for its acute appraisal of the diverse sources. Not surprisingly, references to Spanish Florida recur sporadically throughout the text, especially in connection with Oglethorpe's unsuccessful invasion in 1740 (p. 210 ff.).

Sirmans' history is freshest in treating the early (1663-1712) and later (1743-1763) periods. If he overlaps somewhat with sections of Jack P. Greene's *Quest for Power*, his work complements perfectly Verner W. Crane's *Southern Frontier, 1670-1732*, Robert L. Meriwether's *Expansion of South Carolina, 1729-1765*, and especially Richard M. Brown's *The South Carolina Regulators*. Sirmans' bequest to historians belongs deservedly alongside these earlier classics. Like them, *Colonial South Carolina* will endure, and with it the name of a fine southern scholar: M. Eugene Sirmans.

MICHAEL G. KAMMEN

*Cornell University*

*The Second American Party System: Party Formation in the Jackson Era.* By Richard P. McCormick. (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1966. viii, 389 pp. Acknowledgment, introduction, bibliography, index. \$7.50.)

This important study of parties, party structure, and, in particular, the formation of a new party system during the 1820s and 1830s furnishes student and teacher with information difficult, often impossible, for him to obtain elsewhere. Professor McCormick, obviously an authority on these subjects, stresses the importance of parties as electoral machines organized to win elections, functioning within bounds set by the constitutional and legal environments of their specific historical periods. He shares some of his vast knowledge of parties and party developments in all the states of the union during the period of time covered by his investigation. There is one exception—South Carolina. This information is compressed on the 356 remaining pages of the book, with chapters devoted to New England, Middle States, Old South, and the New States. In each section there is an introduction and a conclusion as well as detailed treatment for each state in the geographical unit. The concluding chapter is a detailed summary.

In his beginning chapter the author states his main thesis: that the Second American Party System developed from presidential contests between the years 1824 and 1840, but he insists that this was the product of new political alignments in local regions rather than in the national administration or in Congress because of regional identification with the respective presidential candidates. By the election of 1840, the nation had produced party systems remarkably free from regional bias. From his central thesis he proceeds to a series of detailed propositions that are treated elaborately, on a regional basis, in the chapters that follow. Although there are few footnotes, the bibliography is complete and should prove useful. It contains a section entitled "Sources of State Election Data."

This is a learned work for readers familiar with political developments during this important period of our history. To read it from cover to cover is a task for anyone, but the details are of great value, perhaps indispensable for any teacher of United

States political history. The author deplors the absence of a detailed study for so many years and suggests that treatment of parties in all of the states at a particular period is such a formidable task that party history has been abandoned to writers preoccupied with questions of doctrine and composition. He suggests that this "time-honored approach to the study of parties is not only limiting but may also be deceptive." Although political causation is not minimized by Professor McCormick, I think it only fair to state that other factors are virtually ignored. This will lead to questioning, which the author expects and welcomes. He has presented us with an impressive array of factual material as a basis for argument and has broadened our perspective in the opinion of this reviewer.

Sponsored by the American Association for State and Local History, this work was the recipient of the association's manuscript award for 1964 - a well earned reward.

MILES S. MALONE

*Daytona Beach Junior College*

*The Yellowlegs: The Story of the United States Cavalry.* By Richard Wormser. (New York: Doubleday and Company, 1966. xi, 480 pp. Introduction, bibliographical essay, maps, index. \$6.50.)

This "informal history" survey portrays the United States cavalry from the Revolutionary War through Pershing's 1916 Mexican expedition, which is considered to be America's last major combat use of horse soldiers. To cover this expanse of material, Wormser presents a general interpretive work based on secondary sources. The most extensively used materials are biographies of outstanding American cavalry leaders. This is demonstrated throughout the study which revolves around descriptive vignettes dealing with approximately eighteen major figures. These sketches are then connected into a continuous narrative.

Florida readers will note with dismay that the Seminole War receives only minimal attention and is quickly dismissed because "it seems best to forget" this poor first campaign effort of the

Second Dragoons. It is said that the "swamp-dwelling Seminoles were no target for cavalry." However, the next page contains the comment that mounted soldiers, "remained non-riders more times than is believable," throughout most of the cavalry's history. One cannot help but wonder how these two concepts are to be reconciled.

Throughout the text the words dragoon and cavalry seem to have interchangeable definitions. Perhaps in modern parlance these words no longer hold their classical meanings; but, when they are used without a clear differentiation, some confusion does result. On the positive side, reader interest is stimulated by the use of pictures and maps. In a volume intended for the general reader it is perhaps understandable that extensive primary research has not been conducted. Nevertheless, there is no reason for not consulting the best secondary materials available. In the case of Francis Marion, the 1844 Simms' biography is cited as being the most helpful. This, despite the fact that in 1959, Robert Bass published a modern authoritative account of the Swamp Fox's Revolutionary War activities. An even larger oversight seems to have been made in connection with the Seminole War. John Sprague's old standard account of that fray cannot be replaced by the *Florida State Public Records*. Also, it appears deficient to devote over two chapters to the dashing character and ability of the great Confederate cavalry leader, J. E. B. Stuart, without mentioning Douglas S. Freeman's *Lee's Lieutenants*. Two of these illustrations serve to show, that in some cases, older works appear to have been given unwarranted precedent over more recent examples of sound historical craftsmanship. Despite this, it can be broadly acknowledged that the author has used some measure of discretion in his background reading choices. The professional reader will be disappointed by the lack of footnotes and other scholarly paraphernalia.

If a person were looking for a light, fast moving, vigorously written history of the cavalry that does not shy away from giving opinions and at the same time breezes by normal scholarly caution, then this is the one to peruse. The author has fulfilled his announced purpose.

GEORGE C. BITTLE

*Inter-American University*