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BOOK REVIEWS

Florida: The Long Frontier. By Marjory Stoneman Douglas. (New York: Harper & Row, 1967. x, 307 pp. Map, bibliography, index. $6.95.)

The name of Marjory Stoneman Douglas is already familiar to lovers of Florida and its history as the author of *The Everglades: River of Grass.* In her latest book she has set herself the task of presenting the panorama of Florida's development from prehistory to the gaudy Miami Beach never-never land of Jackie Gleason. *Florida: The Long Frontier* is one in a series of Harper & Row volumes designed to acquaint readers with the regions of America. Some of the series have been successful, other less so. What Mrs. Douglas has managed is a triumph of clarity, wide in its sweep, impeccably thorough in its research, and full of vividness and charm in its language. She has written for the general reader, but professional historians will be interested in her interpretation of the raw material with which they too are working.

The body of the book is devoted to a general account of Florida's resources, development, and people. And Florida, Mrs. Douglas understands, is not only a state but a country. Unlike most of the rest of the United States its tradition is not primarily English but also Spanish and French. The legend, for instance, of Virginia Dare has little to do with Florida's past; that of Hy-Brasil, the vanished island that Europe's men of the sea hoped to find westward, has. In Mrs. Douglas's unfolding of our heritage the wise men of ancient Indian tribes live once more, and their villages teem with routine activities of common folk. The Spanish conquistadores who came to them are not lists but vital personalities with dreams and foibles of their own. Here is Spanish St. Augustine:

> Flags snapped from the fort and brass gaiety of bugles blew over the housetops as squads of soldiers in their best uniforms tramped to relieve the guard at the fort or salute the adelantado among his inspecting officers. Some shabby dark-robed priest, gaunt from his missions, passed by silently or knelt at the chapel altar before the plain crucfix. Some visiting Indian chief, plumed and tattooed, his magnificent

> half-nakedness clinking with shell and gold ornaments, stalked in dark dignity ahead of his bowmen, to meet as an equal Menendez steely glance. Supper fires would smell of roasting meat as the adelantado entertained the ship's officers at his plain table. The evening gun from the fort roused the echoes from the islands and scattered the flocks of sea gulls and beach birds, mewing and crying across the sunset light.

From the Spanish, then the English, then the Spanish once more, Florida passed to a young America. And Florida was a state for only sixteen years, Mrs. Douglas reminds us, before it seceded. Therefore Florida history is a paradox: as ancient as the Spanish of 1513, and as recent as the years since the Civil War. We are a frontier filled with the hallmarks of antiquity. Mrs. Douglas weaves a tapestry of our Reconstruction and post - Reconstruction history that is many-threaded but simple in its design. World War I and the boom pass into depression and again war and the latter-day citrus-hawking tourism for which our state, in the eyes of most other Americans, now stands almost exclusively.

She has, however, given us more than a general picture. She has faced our racial problems squarely. Most of all, it is individuals who people these pages. There is Mrs. William Jennings Bryan, crippled and dying, confiding to Mrs. Douglas: "If I had had my health Papa would never have gone in for this evolution business." There is crusty old Zephaniah Kingsley, who "believed profoundly" in slavery and had a Negro wife and built an empire on traffic in human beings. There is reckless, engaging John Jackson Dickison, the "War Eagle" of the Confederacy, who lived on daring, the loyalty of his men, and little else. Judah Benjamin, ex-Confederate secretary of state, slips once more into palmetto clumps to hide from his pursuers on the Manatee River; Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe sings a hymn to country life and oranges on the St. Johns; Frederick Delius discovers American folksong at Solano Grove; a Chinese boy from Massachusetts develops the Lue Gim Gong orange; and when tycoon Henry M. Flagler of the east coast wires tycoon Henry B. Plant of the west coast: "Where is Tampa?" Plant quips: "Follow the crowd, Henry."

It is possible to quibble here and there. Tristan de Luna and his Pensacola settlement of 1559 are disposed of almost cavalierly by Mrs. Douglas. Her bias is east Floridian. It is also questionable in this reviewer's eyes whether "the State Board of Education,

made up of the governor and his Cabinet . . . has been spurred by rising demands for better public schools." The time-lag between the submission of the book and its publication may be responsible fur the comment's inappropriateness. But has a vigorous two-party system really come to Florida or did conservatives of both parties merely react in the last gubernatorial election (1966) against a candidate they found too liberal? But Mrs. Douglas's personal conclusions are perhaps as valid as anybody else's personal conclusions. And in the last analysis, it is the book's personal approach that sets it above other histories of Florida.

For it is introduced by "a Personal Prologue," and it ends with an epilogue that is also personal. Mrs. Douglas first saw the dusty little waterfront town of Miami in 1915. She grew up with it, raged at its mistakes, and cheered its triumphs. Her account of her arrival and her newspaper work are continually fascinating. So is her epilogue, through which modem migrant farm workers "move like crawling bright heaps of rags" and big-time gangsters acquire strangleholds on banks and hotels as "holding companies." She raises an impassioned voice for conservation. Marjory Stoneman Douglas cares, and because she is at once a scholar and a poet and a veteran with a keen sense of humor, all her readers are made to care too. This is a book Floridians will want to return to again and again. Visitors and Americans in general will find it an excellent starting point for their explorations of our history and our people. A long but discriminating bibliography has been provided as has an index which, while it has some omissions, is adequate. When a reader has finished *Florida: The Long Frontier* he will know the state which is also a country better than he ever has before. He will know, too, Marjory Stoneman Douglas herself, and he will be glad.

GLORIA JAHODA

Tallahassee, Florida

History of the Second Seminole War, 1835-1842. By John K. Mahon. (Gainesville: University of Florida Press, 1967. xii, 387 pp. Preface, illustrations, maps, bibliography, index. $10.00.)

Between 1835 and 1842 the United States fought what was perhaps the most frustrating war in its history. The federal

government in a questionable treaty with the Seminole Indians had arranged for them to move completely out of Florida and settle in lands west of the Mississippi. On paper it seemed simple and logical enough, but large numbers of the Seminoles would not accept the treaty as a true representation of their views and refused to emigrate. When the United States attempted to remove the recalcitrant redmen by force, an expensive, drawn-out war resulted. General replaced general, each asserting that victory had at last been gained, only to find that the illusive Indians were still at large and still striking back at army posts or white settlements. This Second Seminole War, so called to distinguish it from Andrew Jackson's excursion into Florida in 1818, has long needed an up-to-date history. At last it has one in Professor's Mahon's solid study. This is a thorough work, soundly based on extensive primary sources, and incorporating the research of other scholars.

Professor Mahon begins his book with a brief account of the Seminoles and their origins and traces the developments of American relations with these Indians through the First Seminole War and the treaties made with the tribe. The treaty of Moultrie Creek in 1823 concentrated the Seminoles on a reservation in central Florida, but agitation for their complete removal increased, and the treaties of Payne's Landing and Fort Gibson in 1832 and 1833 provided for the removal of the entire tribe from the territory. Professor Mahon's evaluation of the treaties is judicious, avoiding the blanket condemnation of some historians without denying the effects of the treaties as causes of the war.

The main portion of the book is a chronological narrative of the events of the war, treated for the most part in separate chapters devoted to each of the commanders in the theater - Winfield Scott, Richard Keith Call, Thomas S. Jesup, Zachary Taylor, W. K. Armistead, and finally William Jenkins Worth. The war was a repetitious series of encounters between the army and the Indians as the military commanders tried to ferret out and round up the Indians to be shipped out. With a few exceptions - notably General Taylor's defeat of the Indians at Lake Okeechobee on Christmas day, 1837 - the engagements were hardly formal battles, for the Indians refused to take a stand to fight. Yet Professor Mahon succeeds in keeping the story going, seldom getting bogged down, as the commanders themselves did in the

swamps and hammocks of central and southern Florida, and his presentation of the military strategy and tactics is uniformly well done.

One of his conclusions will especially strike the present-day reader. "The Second Seminole War is important in American military history," he writes, "because of its development of guerrilla, or partisan-style, warfare. If organized white forces were to force the Seminoles out of Florida, they had to find ways to penetrate inaccessible areas, live in part off the land, recruit guides from among the natives or erstwhile allies of the natives, destroy the enemy's food supply, track him down in his deepest lairs, learn to endure severe privation, and all the while protect friendly settlements. The fact that they finally were forced to permit a handful of unconquered Seminoles to remain in the Everglades stands as an eternal reminder of the difficulties of combating guerrilla-style operations." (p. 325)

The book treats of two additional themes which seriously complicated the Second Seminole War - the part played by Negroes in the war and its origins, and the relationship between the regular army units and the militia and volunteer troops which were called out in large numbers to augment the small regular army establishment. For many years Negro slaves from the southern states had fled as fugitives to Florida. They often became slaves of the Seminoles but they enjoyed a less restrictive existence with the Indians than with white masters of Georgia or Alabama. The demands of the white masters of the fugitives became increasingly insistent, and raiding parties from the North invaded the Seminole lands and attempted to carry off by force Negroes who were claimed as slaves. Professor Mahon, following the studies of Kenneth W. Porter, shows that the Negroes, as interpreters and liaisons between the Indians and the whites, had tremendous influence on the conduct of the war. Only when they were guaranteed protection did the Negroes cease their strong opposition to emigration.

The intermixture of regular troops and volunteers from Florida and from states as far away as Missouri plagued the generals. The nation was committed to the principle that a large standing army was inimical to the republic and that the main line of defense was the citizen soldiery, but in Florida the regular commanders had little good to say about the volunteer troops. The

citizen soldiers, in turn, were critical of the regulars and bitterly resented the slighting remarks passed about their own competence and conduct. The Second Seminole War showed that a satisfactory combination of regulars and volunteers had not yet been worked out.

Professor Mahon's factual story is complete and balanced, except that perhaps he is a little too hard on General Jesup for his capture of Osceola under a flag of truce and too ready to label American actions "treachery." His writing style, however, is less satisfactory. Although the clarity of the account is to be commended, infelicities in style and rough edges in organization mar the book. The footnotes, so valuable for a full appreciation of the work, are tucked away at the back of the book and are in such abbreviated form that continual reference to the bibliography is necessary. Despite these shortcomings, nevertheless, the *History of the Second Seminole War* is most welcome. Not since John T. Sprague's *Origin, Progress, and Conclusion of the Florida War* of 1848 has there been a comprehensive history of the war, and Sprague was too close to the events to provide a proper perspective. Mahon's book will be the standard history of the war, essential to all students of Florida history and of American military conflicts with the Indians.

Marquette University FRANCIS PAUL PRUCHA

That Was Palm Beach. By Theodore Pratt. (St. Petersburg: Great Outdoors Publishing Company, 1968. 77 pp. Foreword, illustrations. $1.25.)

Theodore Pratt's most recent publication is an interesting historical document because it brings to life, as only the author can, the Florida of Palm Beach. Although brief, *That Was Palm Beach* is a historical document that should become a basic reference for facts picturing Palm Beach in its heyday as a winter "colony" of the socially elite. An unabashed admirer of Mr. Pratt, this reviewer finds the work appealing to the reader for enjoyment and to the researcher for factual information.

The author has taken materials from his extensive research files which could not be used in his previous works and has placed

them in a single booklet, chapters of which have appeared before as separate articles in the *Miami Herald* "Tropic." Background information for two of his novels, *The Barefoot Mailman* and *The Flame Tree,* provides the basis for the first two chapters. Colonel E. R. Bradley's Beach Club, "The World's Most Exclusive Gambling Place" and "Palm Beach's White Marble Palace," the home of Henry M. Flagler, form the remaining portions of the work. Very few chapters in the story of North America are more colorful than the opening up of the east coast of Florida around the turn of this century.

Now considered a Florida classic, *The Barefoot Mailman,* as a novel, vividly portrays that period of Florida history. *That Was Palm Beach* gives us a historical account of the reasons for and the operation of that unique mail service about which the United States post office has as its only record Mr. Pratt's novel. The tale of the people who built a luxurious playground out of the isolated settlement, called at first Palm City and then Palm Beach, is depicted fictionally in *The Flame Tree;* in this work it is the history of the Royal Poinciana Hotel from its building in 1893 to its dismantling in the early 1930s.

There is a large amount of information in this booklet which chronologically spans the Palm Beach story from the eighties to today's anecdotes about the Flagler Museum, as the mansion is now known. There are additional bonuses, other than those apparent in the chapter titles. For example, the auhor has included as illustrations the paintings of the *Barefoot Mailman* by the noted artist Steven Dohanos as a WPA project in the depression and which now hang in the main post office of West Palm Beach. Some rare and perhaps one-of-a-kind photographs of the Royal Poinciana Hotel and Flagler mansion are included. Certainly unique among illustrations is a sketch of the first floor plan of the famous Beach Club (no inside photographs were permitted). The author tells us of the disposition of the hotel and casino buildings and traces the location of many items from them. He has used this storehouse of information and many detailed facts to weave engaging imaginary "stays" at the resort, including a description of the dedication ball of the Flagler Museum on February 6, 1960. Especially appealing are the "stay" at the Royal Poinciana Hotel and the "trip" to Bradley's, as it was called. The reader will not

lack for entertainment while amassing a thorough knowledge of the people and their creations of the time which produced the Palm Beach of lore and legend. Praise be, there are no footnotes to distract. A sense of perspective has not been neglected, with several comparisons of the manner of living then and of today given. We learn some interesting details: that the Royal Poinciana Hotel, naturally, had the latest in fire escapes, that two gold-plated faucets from the Flagler bathroom are missing (and of the hopeful manner of their return), and what became of that 5,000,000 board feet of lumber used to construct the Royal Poinciana. Possibly, the reader would like to know the probable origin of the phrase, "they take the cake." The answers are all here.

Finally, the author's love for Florida and those who share it glows in a marvelous tribute to Mrs. Jean Flagler Matthews, whose courage and vision in the restoration of her grandfather's mansion is an appropriate present-day continuation of the precedents set by those hardy and glamorous individuals of an earlier day. This is an interesting volume that sustains the reader's attention throughout. It also should be considered as a matter of record of Florida history.

DAVID A. FORSHAY

Palm Beach Junior College

World of the Great White Heron: A Saga of the Florida Keys. By Marjory Bartlett Sanger. (New York: Devin-Adair Company, 1967. x, 144 pp. Introduction, illustrations. $10.00.)

Take this enchanting book in hand and succumb to the lures of the Florida Keys, that intriguing kitestring of islands which anchors Key West to the mainland. Seek a sequestered beach there and unleash your senses. Look and listen, touch and smell. You too will be tuned in on the eternal drama of nature which Mrs. Sanger records so poetically.

Top billing in this ecological stage-play goes to Ardea, the great white heron which John James Audubon discovered in 1832 and named "Angel of the Swamp." This elegant wader of the sandspit and mudflat, the world's largest white heron, is almost exclusively Floridian. The supporting cast includes almost every living creature

which inhabits the keys. Zebra butterflies dance through the wind-matted jungles, hermit crabs battle one another for a discarded shell, and raccoons feed on the oysters clinging to the arching roots of the mangroves. Little seahorses with heads "like a chess-set knight" bob in the water and those ugly regurgitations of the tide, the sea cucumber, lie on the beach like "rotted dill pickles."

Marjory Bartlett Sanger, formerly of Baltimore and now a resident of Winter Park, Florida, has studied and loved birds all her life. But her interest extends beyond birds: she has an affinity for all God's creatures. Her factual information on Florida flora and fauna seems accurate. There is much of beauty in this book but no still shots. All is action. There is no peace in the jungle or on strand or reef. The fierce struggle is continuous for nesting space, for food, for life itself. One species preys on another, and the hurricane comes pell-mell to strip, rend, and kill. A villain always waits in the wings. Even the strangler fig closes in on its host. The unifying thread in the book is one April day, a day beginning with a white heron motionless on a sandbar under a sky turning gold, and ending with the gleam of a crocodile's eyes in the night shadows of the mangrove.

This small volume will appeal to the historian who is also a nature lover or a poet at heart. Primarily it is a natural history though man is not omitted. The human actors include pirates, wreckers, plume hunters, spongers, and shrimpers. The story of the massacre at Indian Key is retold. There is a chapter on Flagler's Folly - the railroad that went to sea. Two of the worst hurricanes ever to hit the keys are described together with the fearful losses to man and to wildlife. But Mrs. Sanger's contribution to history is largely that of portraying a vivid background for stories already well-known. A charming addition to this book are the line drawings of John Henry Dick, considered his best to date. Birds winging or wading, key deer against the jungle, a rookery of white ibis, the old lighthouse at Fort Jefferson - these and many other drawings catch the spirit of this unique and watery world. Mrs. Sanger has written two other ecological studies with a Florida setting, *Mangrove Island* (World, 1965) and *Cypress Country* (World, 1963).

THELMA PETERS

Miami-Dade Junior College (North Campus)

Robert Johnson: Proprietary & Royal Governor of South Carolina. By Richard P. Sherman. (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1966. xii, 203 pp. Preface, bibliographical essay, index, illustrations. $6.75.)

This biography of a public career makes a useful contribution to early American institutional and political history. The complexities of the Carolinas in transition from proprietary to royal status during the early eighteenth century have baffled many students because of the myriad problems and issues interacting and affecting one another. Professor Sherman sees white-Indian relations, the Charleston Revolution, land speculation, boundary problems, the need for settled towns and paper money, the quit-rent question, piracy, the Spanish threat, and the struggle between legislature and judiciary all through the eyes of an administrator confronted with the task of resolving such prickly issues of political economy.

The conflict between merchant and planter in early South Carolina; and the tension between royal prerogative represented by governor and council on the one hand, and assembly privilege on the other, were common colonial conflicts. The acquisitive struggles for land during Johnson's two terms, peculiar in context to Carolina, were exceedingly complex and have been historically controversial. Sherman rejects the theory that the governor and associated officials were simply self-seeking men on the make attempting to engross lands or use them for speculation, as well as the view that there was a fight between two groups of land speculators. He leans sensibly to the explanation that Johnson, with the co-operation of the Assembly, sought to resolve the land issue in a way that would protect inhabitants in their landholding. The governor and other ranking members of the planter class did indeed wish to acquire land, but generally more for their own use than for speculation. Under the terms of the Quit Rent Act which they supported, they would be effectively required to bring their acquired lands under cultivation.

Sherman's book is rather narrowly conceived and lacks the contextual density, for example, of relevant sections in E. M. Sirmans' *Colonial South Carolina: A Political History, 1663-1763* and J. P. Greene's *The Quest for Power: The Lower Houses of*

Assembly in the Southern Royal Colonies, 1689-1776. On the other hand, along with the recently reprinted *Provincial Governor in the English Colonies of North America* by E. B. Greene (Peter Smith, 1966) and the excellent biography of William Shirley by John A. Schutz, Sherman's book brings us that much closer to a much needed comprehensive study of the colonial executive. Sherman's *Johnson* makes an excellent companion to Schutz's *Shirley*, not only because they treat gubernatorial politics in Massachusetts and South Carolina in the same generation, but because both authors are sensitive to the Anglo-American dimension of provincial affairs.

MICHAEL G. KAMMEN

Cornell University

The Frontiersmen: A Narrative. By Allen W. Eckert. (Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1967. xii, 626 pp. Author's note, prologue, maps, epilogue, list of Indian characters, glossary of Shawnee words and phrases, index. $8.95.)

The Frontiersmen is an account of the settlement of Kentucky and Ohio, and at the same time a biography of Simon Kenton, Tecumseh Blue Jacket, and several other white men and Indians who participated in this activity. This unusual work is a history, written in the style of a novel, using dialogue. Unlike similar works, the dialogue, although manufactured, seems to be factually accurate, having been taken from letters and memoirs. The effect of this technique is excellent, holding the reader's interest and giving him the feeling of seeing the event with his own eyes. Although the professional historian cannot use the book for direct factual references because of its chapter footnoting, it will be extremely useful to him for background reading.

The narrative is presented from both the view of the Indian and the white man and goes far to demonstrate the reason peace could not exist between them. The book describes the horrors of Indian warfare in graphic, bloody detail covering the entire period from colonial times through the death of Tecumseh during the War of 1812. Of special value to the reader is Eckert's remarkable objectivity in dealing with both the Indian and white man. He does not resort to moralizing or breast beating, and thereby allows

the reader to see the events and judge for himself. The work contains interesting accounts of Indian raids on white settlements and counterattacks by the whites. There are also clear descriptions of travel down the Ohio by flatboats and of the founding of settlements on that river.

During the Revolutionary War many settlers at first wished to remain neutral, but with numerous English-inspired Indian attacks they were forced to turn against the British. This period found the Kentucky frontier in a state of seige and that the settlements there survived at all was a credit to Simon Kenton, Daniel Boone, and a few other brave men. Following the signing of peace with the British, the Indians continued to make trouble for the settlements, and all early efforts to force them to make peace were doomed to failure. Eckert describes the expeditions of Generals Josiah Harmer and Arthur St. Clair against the Shawnee in 1790 and 1791 and explains in considerable detail why they were doomed to defeat, whereas Anthony Wayne's expedition was finally successful. Following the Treaty of Greenville in 1795, the Shawnee remained in a state of uneasy peace with the whites until the Tecumseh conspiracy merged with the War of 1812. The author gives a good account of the organization of Tecumseh's conspiracy and considerable explanation of the means by which other tribes were persuaded to join it. Eckert gives only brief treatment to Tecumseh's visit to the Creek and Seminole Indians, but he does show how these tribes were recruited for his cause. He also provides a good account of the seige of Fort Meigs and of Tecumseh's death at the Battle of the Thames.

The Frontiersmen is readable and seems to be well-researched, and the author used a number of good sources, including published and unpublished memoirs and letters. Of special value as a major source is the excellent Lyman Draper Collection, which is one of the best deposits of frontier material in existence. The book, well-printed and well-written, easily holds the reader's interest.

FRANK LAWRENCE OWSLEY, JR.

University of Nebraska