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## Book Reviews

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## BOOK REVIEWS

*From Saddlebags to Satellites: A History of Florida Methodism.*  
Edited by William E. Brooks. (Florida Annual Conference,  
United Methodist Church, Maitland. 268 pp. Preface, ap-  
pendix, notes, illustrations. \$4.00; \$1.75 paper.)

In its 1962 session the Florida Annual Conference of the Methodist Church adopted a resolution to observe the 125th session of the conference (later changed to the 125th year). As part of its celebration, the conference ordered the writing of a history of Methodism in Florida. William E. Brooks, then chairman of the conference's historical society, was named editor. The original plan proposed to expand Charles T. Thrift's *The Trail of the Florida Circuit Rider* from 1944, the date of publication, to 1969. According to the acknowledgment page, eleven clergymen, three laymen, and four college students of journalism contributed essays that have been included, in whole or in part, in *From Saddlebags to Satellites*.

As the project progressed, the plans were altered. About a fourth of Thrift's book was used at random. An attempt to build anew around the framework of a book often results in a scissors and paste job that is unsatisfactory and unacceptable to a critical reader. Such a process requires strict editing. In this case many sections fail to have cohesion. Despite its lack of unity the book is rich in details and in facts which have great interest for Methodists in Florida. But even the most interested reader will question the value of such notations as naming the donor of "the fan over the dishwasher" at a youth camp or acknowledging the gift of Thrift's book by the historical society. The inclusion of such trivia, of which there are many, indicates a lack of discernment in evaluating materials.

This history covers the years from 1814 to 1969. It traces the growth of the Methodist church in this area from the arrival of the first preacher of this denomination to the formation of the annual conference in 1845. In showing the later development of the conference, attention is given to the accompanying prosperity of World War I and to the effects of the disastrous hurricanes of 1926, 1928, and 1935. About two-fifths of the book is devoted to the period since 1950, in which the church made signal contributions to a social welfare program. The co-

operation among several denominations in assisting the government to locate 90,000 Cuban refugees in this area is noteworthy. About midway of the period under consideration the circuit rider had definitely dismounted; the saddlebags were inadequate for the church's needs. It must be recognized, however, that the church has not yet adjusted itself to the modernity of the satellite age.

Methodism in Florida is not lacking in good historical material; but this publication has not done justice to the subject. Such a history needs the skill and scholarship of a man like the late William Warren Sweet, whose *Virginia Methodism* is a model for others to follow.

WALTER B. POSEY

*Agnes Scott College*

*The Amphibious Campaign for West Florida and Louisiana, 1814-1815: A Critical Review of Strategy and Tactics at New Orleans.* By Wilburt S. Brown. (University: University of Alabama Press, 1969. xiv, 233 pp. Preface, maps, bibliography, index. \$10.00.)

This work is probably the most complete account of the New Orleans campaign thus far published, and although it is no more detailed than Charles Brooks' *The Siege of New Orleans*, its use of manuscript material makes it a far more satisfactory study.

General Brown did not follow the pattern of the usual historical narrative. He starts the book with a very useful series of biographical sketches of the persons involved in the battles for New Orleans on both sides. Brown provides brief accounts of the Creek war and the British activities among the Indians and then describes in some detail the conditions in Louisiana just prior to the British attack. In addition to excellent background material he gives the reader a brief but useful description of the British efforts in West Florida and the capture of Pensacola by Jackson, all of which Brown rightly considers to be preliminary maneuvers in the New Orleans campaign. The accounts of the night battle on December 23, of the artillery duel, and the sinking of the *Carolina* are especially

well done and show General Brown's excellent understanding of the technical side of the artillery of that day. The author made one surprising error in his otherwise good description of the British grand assault of January 8. In explaining the battle Brown indicated that all Americans were armed with rifles, which they were not. Other authors have made this error, but considering Brown's high degree of technical information, it is surprising that he did not distinguish between rifles and muskets.

Purists will no doubt complain that the author has introduced new material in his conclusion, but the nature of the material does much to show the importance of the American victory at New Orleans. Perhaps Brown's most controversial view is that the New Orleans campaign was vital to the outcome of the war in spite of the Treaty of Ghent, but the author has excellent evidence based on British official manuscripts which give strong support to his conclusions. Brown also concludes that the British commanders such as Admiral Alexander Cochrane did not fail because they were incompetent but because of bad luck, bad support from Britain, and the outstanding work by Andrew Jackson.

In spite of the statement to the contrary on the dust jacket, General Brown has *not* "studied all of the extant primary sources," but he has used far more of the British manuscript materials than any other historian so far, including Henry Adams. Because of his familiarity with these little used manuscript sources, the author has made a very significant contribution to the knowledge of the New Orleans campaign. While there is still room for more research and writing on the War of 1812 in the South, this work is certainly the best narrative of the Battle of New Orleans published so far. The book is very well printed and contains numerous excellent maps.

FRANK L. OWSLEY, JR.

*Auburn University*

*Borderland Empires in Transition: The Triple-Nation Transfer of Florida.* By Robert L. Gold. (Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 1969. xvi, 258 pp. Preface, maps, tables, appendices, bibliography, index. \$10.00.)

This book concerns the transfer of French and Spanish Florida to English control, 1763-1766. As the author points out, the Treaty of Paris gave strong direction to British imperial policy. Rather than fragmenting her American colonies by taking the Caribbean possessions of Spain and France, England chose Canada and Florida in order to dominate the extensive north Atlantic coastline and to secure her southern colonies. But assuming control over Florida posed many problems, which have become the foci for Professor Gold's perceptive analysis.

Transfer of private property caused many difficulties. Although the Treaty of Paris gave the Spaniards eighteen months to dispose of their holdings, they found few English buyers. Then, after the final Spanish exodus in February 1764, property owners in St. Augustine had to put their estates in the hands of an agent, Don Juan de la Puente, but he, too, could not turn up purchasers. Finally, to prevent these properties from falling to the British by default, Puente turned to Jesse Fish, an English entrepreneur. For a commission Fish agreed to act as the trustee for the holdings, to sell what he could, and to send what he obtained to the former Spanish owners in Cuba. Like Puente he did not have great success, in part perhaps because of the English system of land grants totaling 1,650,000 acres in East Florida, between 1765 and 1775. In fact during the entire British period, Fish sold properties at some 14,000 pesos, a third of which he kept for himself.

Evacuation of Florida was another problem. Between February 1763, and February 1764, 3,104 Castilians, Catalans, Canary Islanders, creole Floridians, Germans, Yamasees, blacks, and mulattos left St. Augustine. All but forty-three who went to Yucatan settled in Cuba, but here they suffered from starvation and neglect. By September 1766, 663 of the refugees were dead. At Pensacola 600 residents and Indians departed for Vera Cruz, while at Mobile the French showed less inclination to leave. In all forty of ninety-eight families rendered fealty to George III and remained in the French settlement.

Religious conditions were no better under the Anglicans than under the Spanish Catholics earlier in the eighteenth century. Although a meager handful of Anglican priests and schoolmasters replaced Spanish secular clergy and Franciscans in St. Augustine, religious or educational life did not improve much, except

perhaps that the British showed more tolerance in allowing Catholicism to prevail at the Minorcan settlement of New Smyrna.

For both Christianized and infidel Indians the transfer was also unsettling. Yamasees who emigrated to Cuba saw one-third of their number perish by 1766. Of the 108 Yamasee Apalachinos migrating from Pensacola, only sixty-five survived the land-sea journey to settle near Vera Cruz in New Spain. According to Gold's estimates, pro-French and pro-Spanish Indians on the Florida frontier killed some 4,000 whites and Indians in reaction to the English takeover; and it was not until after John Stuart became active in the Southeast and after a series of conferences with Indian leaders at Mobile, Pensacola, and Picolata that relations improved.

This book is well researched and clearly written with excellent tables and maps. Although covering only three crucial years, it describes in detail the institutional and diplomatic problems which arose in the transfer of Florida to English control and the painful human costs as well. In sum this work marks still another significant scholarly contribution to the history of colonial Florida, which so desperately needs practitioners like Robert Gold.

JOHN J. TEPASKE

*Duke University*

*Swamp to Sugar Bowl: Pioneer Days in Belle Glade.* By Lawrence E. Will. (St. Petersburg: Great Outdoors Publishing Co., 1968. 235 pp. Maps, illustrations, index. \$2.75 paper.)

"I have seen it . . . from those days when the first canal was being dug where Belle Glade is, and when this country was nearabout inaccessible, when it was inhabited only by varmints and mosquitoes, right up till now when Belle Glade is a right nice city, and these Everglades are the bread basket and the sugar bowl of the nation. Things have changed a right smart in just one lifetime, and that's for sure."

The folksy dialect is like a cardboard carton encasing priceless contents. Lawrence Will's sixth book is a solid contribution to local history in Florida. Who else has recorded, for example,

the debate and the parliamentary trick that incorporated Belle Glade April 9, 1928? "I was right there in the church house and I saw it all happen," Mr. Will relates. He names the protagonists, for and against, and quotes what they said. He starts with mounds left by Calusa Indians believed to have lived on the shore of Lake Okeechobee from about 1,000 to 1,700 A.D. Mr. Will has lived near the lake since 1913, in Belle Glade since 1927. His zestful narrative covers every major, and many a minor, event in the city's history to now.

The illustrations include more than six dozen photographs. Some of the scenes never will be seen again, such as white-flowered moon vines blanketing the custard apple forest which originally filled 33,000 acres south and east of the lake. The author's personality and viewpoint are a natural part of his story. Unselfconsciously, he tells where he was, what he did, and how he felt about what was happening. The deceptively simple method brings history to life in a human dimension.

JEANNE BELLAMY

*Miami, Florida*

*Florida's Hibiscus City: Vero Beach.* By J. Noble Richards. (Melbourne: Brevard Graphics, Incorporated, 1968. 480 pp. Foreword, acknowledgements, illustrations, bibliography. \$6.95.)

Vero Beach is blessed to have had such a dedicated chronicler as J. Noble Richards-and historians will find his book a treasury of factual data on the Indian River County area.

Who built the shell mounds along the coast where modern subdivisions rise? Who founded Fellsmere, Sebastian, Roseland, Gifford, Wabasso, Viking, Oslo, and the fascinating colony of Orchid on the sea island? But mostly, who had the good taste to conceive and design and build the attractive modern city of Vero Beach, the envy of its sister cities along Florida's East Coast? Mr. Richards answers those questions and many more. A native of Washington, D.C., he retired to Vero Beach after a long legal career-and had a successful "transplanted love affair" of civic service with this favored Florida community. The book's title shares his pride in being a member of the city

council which designated Vero Beach as the "Hibiscus City" by resolution of October 17, 1967.

The book opens with a view of the primitive Indians whose bones and artifacts are frequently turned up by today's bulldozers. Richards reviews Spanish, French, and English rule, and the perilous era of the Confederacy and American frontier days. The reader finds a continuity from prehistoric times through the "ox cart and trade boat days" to the bright and shining city of today.

Included is much civic data ordinarily neglected, chronologies of city and county government, a history of the airport-base of Piper Aircraft and the Brooklyn Dodgers-the growth of agriculture, and banking and cultural facilities.

Some historians forget that "people are the vital ingredient" but Richards appended more than 100 full-page biographies of the leaders of Vero Beach, including "that giant genius of a man," the late Waldo E. Sexton, "a living legend in his own time," who "will remain a part of Vero Beach through it existence." Sexton co-operated with Arthur G. McKee of Cleveland, Ohio, in creating Vero's prime tourist attraction, McKee Jungle Gardens, built the fabulous Driftwood Inn and other artistic buildings, featuring weathered driftwood, mahogany planks, and wrought iron, with decor gleaned from ruined castles of Europe and the demolished mansions of Palm Beach. Sexton's love of natural beauty is reflected in Vero's avenues of stately Royal palms, bougainvillea, and hibiscus.

A conscientiously listed bibliography is of interest to the researcher and collector of Floridiana. Many old photographs were supplied by the *Vero Beach Press-Journal*. Original art work on the early Indians is outstanding. The book's lasting impression with this reviewer is that any community's greatest asset is people who love it-as the late J. Noble Richards loved Vero Beach.

ERNEST F. LYONS

*Stuart, Florida*

*Pocahontas*. By Grace Steele Woodward. (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1969. xv, 227 pp. Acknowledgments, bibliography, index, illustrations. \$6.95.)

For more than 350 years the gentle character of Pocahantas has provided a heart-warming link between the doomed civilization of the American Indian and the triumphant culture of the acquisitive whiteman. The innocent young maiden who interposed her tender body between the savage club and Captain John Smith's bared head was the first romantic heroine of American history. The blushing bride of honest John Rolfe symbolically united the two races on this continent. Her early death in England tragically proved the salubrious superiority of the western wilderness.

There is little enough to remember with pleasure in the relations of whitemen and redmen, and it is good of Grace Steele Woodward to have left the nostalgia of our childhood unsullied while placing the Indian Princess most precisely in history and painting her in most attractive colors. Beyond a doubt, the salvation of John Smith was also the salvation of Jamestown-and that was but one of Pocahantas' many early kindnesses and services. Certainly John Rolfe deserved the reward of her hand in matrimony, for he was the founder of the great American tobacco industry, and his dusky wife's descendants still link the old world with the new. Much more than this Mrs. Woodward makes clear: the gross ineptitude of those first English settlers that made them beggars for Powhatan's corn before they were strong enough to steal it; the cold-blooded kidnapping of the unsuspecting girl who was betrayed to Captain Samuel Argall for a common copper kettle; the callous calculation of the Virginia Company which used her as a lure for the gold of tight-fisted Jacobean investors. Poor Pocahantas! She deserved every memorial ever erected to her memory!

Her latest biographer does her justice. With meticulous care she describes the woodland scene of Pocahantas' childhood, the trials of the colonists, the courtship of the Rolfes, and their brief sojourn in England. All that may be said historically of Powhatan's daughter is judiciously set forth. If the woman herself fails to come alive, only the license of the novelist could further catch and hold her flitting shadow. Grace Woodward's book enriches the literature of American colonial history and does honor to one of the first great ladies of Virginia.

*Auburn University*

ROBERT R. REA

*Charleston in the Age of the Pinckneys.* By George C. Rogers, Jr. (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1969. xv, 160 pp. Acknowledgments, prologue, bibliographical note, index. \$2.95.)

Historian Rogers writes with affection (and criticism) about his native Charleston's "Golden Century" - 1730s to 1830s. These were also the years when the Pinckneys were in the forefront of political movements within South Carolina. This excellent monograph consists of six separate essays, whose titles indicate the scope of the work: "The Economic Base," "The Open City," "The Sensuous City," "The Mind of the City," "The Pinckney Family," and "The Closed City."

From 1730 onward Charleston grew rapidly, prospering from rice, indigo, long-staple cotton, commerce, and wars. The city was well situated to dominate the southern ocean-going commerce until the nineteenth century. The last great wealth to be gained by Charlestonians in the carrying trade came between 1793 and 1808. Until 1780 the merchants dominated this turbulent city of plagues, fires, hurricanes, and enemy threats. Charleston society was fluid, open, and possessed an international outlook. The center of the city's intellectual life was its Library Society, and Professor Rogers believes the Congregationalists may have been more important in pre-Revolutionary Charleston society than the Anglicans.

The most romantic period of Charleston's history, says Rogers, was the 1780-1782 years of British occupation, "a time of noble deeds and mysterious actions." After the Revolution, the mercantile community, tarnished by Tory connections, "never regained the standing it had had before the war." Eventually, the city was dominated by its resident planters, and its society became less mobile.

The slavery issue profoundly frightened Charlestonians. Their open-mindedness yielded to a glorification of the past. Simultaneously, the coming of steam transport and the opening of cotton lands to the West led to Charleston's relative economic decline. Professor Rogers concludes that the crucial battle of 1832 and 1833 was not so much an issue of tariff or slavery "as it was whether or not the city should be of the world." The Charleston homes built in the 1840s and 1850s "lacked some-

thing in taste" and were "less refined than their earlier neighbors." Even so, Charlestonians, by the eve of the Civil War, believed they had the perfect society. Today, Charleston's tourist attraction is not its history; rather, it is its sensuous aspects—its sights, smells, sounds, trees, marshes, rivers, islands, beaches, old buildings.

Professor Rogers has spent years researching Charleston sources. As a result, this little book is delightful reading and a storehouse of valuable information. But when the author describes the city's important landmarks, he needs maps to aid those readers who are not well acquainted with Charleston—my only criticism.

ERNEST M. LANDER, JR.

*Clemson University*

*Letters From Alabama, 1817-1822.* By Anne Newport Royall. Edited and annotated by Lucille Griffith. *Southern Historical Publications No. 14.* (University: University of Alabama Press, 1969. 292 pp. Preface, notes, index. \$7.50.)

In looking beyond innovations in spelling, punctuation, and sentence structure, *Letters From Alabama* provides an extraordinary insight into conditions in that area during the 1817-1822 period. Some distinctive regional folkways, mores, and political and economic institutions were developing. Some of these are mirrored in their emerging or embryonic stage, often vividly, in Mrs. Royall's perceptive letters. They preserve some sharp-eyed observations about travel, road conditions, personalities encountered, and the overnight accommodations available. Many of her accounts stem from conversations that took place at the inns. These deal with such subjects as politics, religion, science, public figures, and the activities of land seekers and other travelers. She frequently spices her accounts with her opinions, displaying throughout a sense of justice and a sense of humor.

She deals too briefly perhaps with the conditions surrounding the removal of the Indians and the land-grabbing that followed. That which she did record, however, is a valuable addition to that sad chapter in our nation's history. The letters

speak eloquently of the white man's injustice to the Indian, and briefly, but with equal moral consistence, against slavery.

In commenting on the emotion-oriented revivalism of that era, Mrs. Royall undoubtedly "told it like it was," as sacriligious as that must have seemed to some readers. Her ability to "tell it like it is-or was," however, is in the final analysis what sets her work apart. Her recurring remarks about religion, despite the grains of truth embedded therein, betrayed a prejudice that lessens somewhat the credibility of her comments. It was indeed such comments, heightened by strident controversy, that brought her the dubious distinction later of being branded by a jury as a "common scold." She hated hypocrisy as exemplified by the "holier than thou set," and she missed few chances to take them to the verbal woodshed.

Students of that era are indebted to Mrs. Royall for descriptive and biographic comments about such public figures as Generals Andrew Jackson, John Coffee, William Carroll, and Chief William Weatherford, among others. She ascribed to Jackson and Coffee, in particular, qualities of perfection that few men have ever attained. Her heroes have few faults and her villains few virtues. Mrs. Griffith's introduction, dealing with Mrs. Royall's background and career, shows evidence of extensive research and tends to sharpen the reader's interest and appreciation of the letters that follow.

E. W. CARSWELL

Chipley, Florida

*Surfboats and Horse Marines: U. S. Naval Operations in the Mexican War, 1846-48.* By K. Jack Bauer. (Annapolis: United States Naval Institute, 1969. xii, 291 pp. Preface, maps, illustrations, appendices, bibliography, index. \$12.50.)

It would almost seem futile for an historian to research and write about naval operations during a war in which there were no at-sea naval engagements, in which there was no naval challenge for control of the ocean, in which, for all practical purposes, there was no enemy navy. Yet that is exactly what Professor Bauer has done in his study of United States naval operations during the Mexican War. The author points out that the

navy accomplished the prime objective of all wartime navies, that of gaining supremacy of the seas, by default, and it also established and maintained an effective blockade of the Mexican coasts, although continually hampered by an inadequate number of vessels.

The war saw the employment of the U. S. Navy's first amphibious assault. It was accomplished under Commodore David Conner's direction when he landed General Winfield Scott's 8,600 man army on the enemy's shore near Veracruz in less than five hours. Later the Home Squadron, based in the Gulf of Mexico and now under Commodore Matthew C. Perry, sent a Naval Brigade ashore with guns and crews drawn from the various ships present to man a portion of the line engaged in siege warfare around the Mexican stronghold at Veracruz. This was also a unique development, for the Naval Brigade, "with its own artillery, engineers, medical parties, and so forth," was organizationally and operationally quite different from previous small boat landing parties utilized by the navy. Meanwhile, the Pacific Squadron, on a much smaller scale, employed its sailors as soldiers in land operations which were instrumental in securing upper California for the United States. These events demonstrate the nascent trend away from the older naval philosophy of *guerre de course* towards the more modern navy's concept of operations on land, sea, and in the air.

Professor Bauer stresses the fact that the naval officers in high command had received their wartime gunnery and seamanship training thirty years earlier during the War of 1812, a war which taught caution, according to the author. Thus, by the time of the Mexican War these men were, for the most part, overly wary commanders; however, the middle grade naval officers, who later held important commands during the Civil War, received valuable training on land and sea during the conflict.

This work deals with Florida and southern history only in its geographic setting, the Gulf of Mexico, for the facilities at Pensacola and Key West were not significant in supporting the Home Squadron. However, many of the naval officers who had participated in boat expeditions in Florida during the Second Seminole War performed similar functions in the Mexican War.

For clarity of narrative, the book is divided into two parts

with the development of the Home Squadron's operations discussed before the Pacific activities are related. The navy's role is not distorted by this device because there was no cooperation between the two units, yet it is an asset to the reader (who has enough difficulty keeping track of the arrivals and departures of the vessels of one squadron at a time). This is a new presentation of the Mexican War, and, for the naval buff, a well researched study which fills a long standing void in naval history. Prior to its publication such operations could be found only in general historical works where they were treated in a sketchy and ancillary manner.

GEORGE E. BUKER

*Jacksonville University*

*Braxton Bragg and Confederate Defeat. Volume I: Field Command.* By Grady McWhiney. (New York: Columbia University Press, 1969. xiv, 421 pp. Preface, acknowledgments, maps, illustrations, selected bibliography, index. \$10.00.)

This is volume one of a projected two-volume biography of Braxton Bragg, one of the South's more controversial generals. Professor McWhiney covers Bragg's career from his birth in 1817 in Warrenton, North Carolina, to the spring of 1863. The theme of the work is how Bragg as commander of the Army of Tennessee contributed to Confederate defeat. The author's purpose, however, is neither to defend nor defame his subject, "but to untangle many of the exaggerated opinions about him, to present him as his contemporaries saw him and as he saw himself, and to analyze his successes and failures."

No one doubted Bragg's ability when the Civil War began. As a West Point graduate and Mexican War hero he was one of the most distinguished soldiers to offer his services to the Confederacy, serving first as commander of the forces at Pensacola. He quickly rose in rank from colonel to full general, but with these promotions came responsibilities Bragg could not handle. His decline in prestige and popularity began with the Kentucky Campaign of 1862. This operation, in the opinion of many historians caused nearly every Confederate except President Davis to lose faith in Bragg. Yet the author thinks

it would be a mistake to conclude that he had completely lost the confidence of his army by this time. Of the twenty generals serving under him during the campaign apparently only Polk and Hardee openly expressed dissatisfaction with their superior. Bragg's usefulness as a field commander, concludes Professor McWhiney, was not destroyed until the Murfreesboro Campaign (December 1862-January 1863) and its aftermath when he decided to ask his subordinates what they really thought of his military ability.

It is the opinion of this reviewer that few students of the Civil War will challenge the author's conclusions as to why Bragg failed as a field commander. Though courageous and at times imaginative, resourceful, and bold, he was "never patient, either with his men or with the enemy and he lacked that imperturbability and resolution so necessary in field commanders. Handicapped by poor health he had no taste for combat. And he was not lucky. Nor did he have the ability to inspire confidence in his subordinates . . . . A mediocre tactician, he seemed unaware of the technological changes that had outdated pre-war assault tactics and strengthened the advantages of defensive combat." (p. 390) On the other hand Bragg possessed characteristics which the Confederacy needed badly. He was intelligent, diligent, patriotic, and was recognized as an excellent organizer and disciplinarian.

"One of the great ironies of Confederate military history is that Jefferson Davis, who prided himself so on his knowledge of the capabilities of those former regular army officers who fought for the South, failed early in the war to assign Bragg to a position where his talents could be used best. Instead, the President had placed and retained Bragg in a post-as commander of the Confederacy's second most important army-where he made a major contribution to Confederate defeat." (pp. 391-92)

This is a thoroughly researched, well-written, valuable work. It is hoped that volume two will be completed soon.

JOHN G. BARRETT

*Virginia Military Institute*

*Strange Enthusiasm: A Life of Thomas Wentworth Higginson.*

By Tilden G. Edelstein. (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1968. xii, 425 pp. Preface, manuscripts cited, bibliography of Higginson, index. \$11.00.)

For the biographer who is also an historian, the life of Thomas Wentworth Higginson offers special challenges and opportunities. Evaluating the achievements of a major American reformer who happened to live to be nearly ninety in an age of reform, was surely no small task, but Mr. Edelstein's result amply justifies his effort. Not only a sensitive biography, this life of Higginson is in fact a good history of reform in the nineteenth century. Higginson is best known for his part in the anti-slavery crusade, but he was also identified with feminism, temperance, labor, anti-imperialism, and other reforms associated with the early Progressives. Among his contemporaries the reformer was known as a literary figure as well. His friendship with Emily Dickinson has been exaggerated, concludes Mr. Edelstein, and his influence on the editing of Dickinson's work was not salutary. But in his poetical tastes as in his life, Higginson was at once a man of his times and a unique individual. It is Mr. Edelstein's special achievement that he sustains a dynamic tension between Higginson the representative reformer and Higginson the slightly neurotic and insecure victim of his own childhood.

A failure to appreciate the austere and sometimes startling effects of Emily Dickinson's verse was but one reflection of the lesser side of Thomas Wentworth Higginson. Our reformer was affected by a banal romanticism, a tendency to strike poses, especially military and "manly" ones, even such small failings inconsistent with a completely candid character as fibbing when necessary, and reading the diaries of his friends without their knowledge.

It is the wealth of diary material and personal letters that lends the special note of authority to this biography. Young Higginson went home after reading those diaries of friends, and confided the whole business in his own diary. The insecurity and desperation Higginson revealed for the approval of others developed in him, over the years, a paternalistic view of the world, and he always felt most comfortable with those who

seemed to need him and depend upon him: women, children, slaves. This psychological insight constitutes a major theme in Edelstein's biography. Though he does not say that Higginson became a reformer because of his particular psychological structure, Edelstein does demonstrate that he became the kind of reformer he became because of it. Higginson's humanitarianism was paternalistic, and his crusading militant and romantic. Or perhaps it is best turned around: Higginson was a crusader as long as crusading could be militant and romantic. After the Civil War being a crusader was not romantic, and Higginson settled for being a reformer, a rather dull business in those times.

Inevitably there will be questions from those fatigued by the application of psychological techniques to the study of reformers. It is inherent in modern biography that the "hero" will be in some degree flawed, and the writer who stresses influences other than outrage at social wrongs, when he is writing about a reformer, stands to be taken for envious, or at the best, ungenerous. Mr. Edelstein frankly avows the psychoanalytic purpose, however, and stands responsible for any injustices he may have done. But before passing judgment, the reader will do well to follow through Higginson's career to the end, for then Higginson requires some mercy and understanding from posterity. The day came when he had more in common with Booker T. Washington's view of the racial situation than with W. E. B. DuBois', and he even fell into the trap of romanticizing the Old South. Somehow Mr. Edelstein, with his psychological insight, helps us understand all that, which is not bad.

WILLIE LEE ROSE

*University of Virginia*

*Reconstruction: An Anthology of Revisionist Writings.* Edited by Kenneth M. Stampp and Leon F. Litwack. (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1969. xii. 531 pp. Foreword. \$12.00; \$4.25 paper.)

Although Florida and the other Confederate states lost the military contest of the 1860s, in many ways they won the peace. Not the least of the southern victories came when Clio assumed

a distinct southern accent. By the early 1900s Robert E. Lee had become a hero to both North and South, and the brief period known as Reconstruction was being interpreted by historians as a time when "Radicals," "carpetbaggers," and "scalawags" used the voting strength of ignorant Negroes to control public offices and plunder the resources of southern states while a helpless native population suffered in silence. Although black historians W. E. B. DuBois and John R. Lynch questioned this interpretation as early as 1909 and 1913, they were almost wholly ignored. Meanwhile, the idea that Reconstruction was an era of unrelieved corruption, mismanagement, and error for which Radical Republicans were responsible permeated historical writing of the first half of the twentieth century. Most United States history textbooks incorporated this point of view until recently and many still do.

While noting the early revisionist efforts of the black writers, Professors Stamp and Litwack argue that wholesale re-examination of many facets of the Reconstruction story has taken place within the past thirty years, beginning with Francis Butler Simkins in 1939 and Howard K. Beale in the mid-1940s. In this process the revisionists have rejected much, though certainly not all, that the earlier southern-oriented writers had said. The editors of this anthology feel that these revisionists are no longer in the minority, but are well on the way to becoming the proponents of the orthodox position on Reconstruction. Admitting that the revisionists have concerned themselves with differing aspects of Reconstruction history and that some of them disagree with each other, the editors have arbitrarily selected twenty-three articles and book-excerpts as representative of revisionist writing. In the first of five parts, their selections deal with Lincoln, Johnson, and Reconstruction. Part two examines the motivations and activities of the Radical Republicans in Congress. Part three contains two articles on the freedmen, including a significant argument by Joel Williamson that Reconstruction was a period of "unequaled progress" for South Carolina Negroes. Part four reassesses "Radical Reconstruction in the South." Included among its ten selections are considerations of the terms "carpetbagger" and "scalawag" and their historical significance. Floridians will read with special interest the articles by Jack Scroggs and W. E. B. DuBois, both of which

deal with prominent Florida personalities. Part five, "The Collapse of Reconstruction," shows how the "Mississippi Plan" was executed to draw the color line and eliminate Republicans and Negroes from office, at the same time that Radicalism was declining in the North.

Despite two recent publications by E. Merton Coulter and Avery O. Craven, this reviewer agrees that the revisionists are in the majority among historians. Although other editors might have made different selections from the rich sources of revisionist writing, this anthology is representative and will be useful to anyone interested in this complex period.

JERRELL H. SHOFNER

*Florida State University*

*The Negro in Reconstruction.* By Robert Cruden. (Englewood Cliffs: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1969. ix, 182 pp. Preface, bibliography, index. \$5.95; \$2.45 paper.)

*Great Lives Observed: Booker T. Washington.* By Emma Lou Thornbrough. (Englewood Cliffs: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1969, 184 pp. Introduction, afterword, bibliographical note, index. vii, \$4.85; \$1.95 paper.)

Books which are written by historians specifically for "interested laymen and students" bear a special burden. Implicit in these works is the belief that somehow history written for historians cannot be read with profit by the beginning student or the non-specialist. Thus, Robert Cruden informs his readers that his book on the Negro in Reconstruction "aims to provide, in compact and readable form, an interpretation, based on recent scholarship, of a crucial period in our history." His task, Cruden asserts, is to present in a short book a view of many aspects of black-white relationships growing from war, emancipation, and the problems presented to the postwar South and nation. One would hope that in format such a book would be a model of the historical method, illustrating to "interested laymen and students" not only what historians purport to do, but the techniques of their craft. This, then, is the special burden—that books written for general readers maintain their integrity as

works of history. Unfortunately, Cruden's work does not conform to such a hope. In 168 pages of text there are but eleven footnote citations, even though block quotations are scattered liberally throughout the book. Nor is the problem mitigated by the bibliography, which simply lists twenty-eight books with a one-sentence annotation of each. In short, a beginning student would find Cruden's use of sources mystifying.

Cruden's theme is revisionist, and he has familiarized himself with much recent Reconstruction scholarship. Moreover, his attempt to place the Negro's response to Reconstruction within the broader framework of that complex period is admirable. Again, however, he is betrayed by an effort to oversimplify for his limited audience. As one example of many, he uses the term "Black Power," which he does not define precisely, in discussing the freedman's political role in Reconstruction; surely such a value-laden phrase obscures more than it reveals, particularly for those whose understanding of the past is shaped on present terms. Finally, the book is awkward in form and style, ranging from convoluted sentences to obscure reasoning; the book's good intentions are marred further by flawed internal logic and unproven assertions which are needlessly argumentative.

By contrast, Emma Lou Thornbrough's brief Booker T. Washington reader can be consulted with profit by almost any audience. She introduces Washington's words with a reasoned and coherent essay, admirably giving Washington's life the perspective it needs. The selections from Washington's writings and speeches are judiciously chosen; she has included and carefully edited articles by his contemporaries and historians which present a rounded picture of this complex figure; and her bibliographical essay is excellent. The book should prove popular in undergraduate classrooms.

AUGUSTUS M. BURNS, III

*University of Florida*

*Democracy in the Old South and Other Essays.* By Fletcher M. Green. Edited by J. Isaac Copeland. (Nashville: Vanderbilt University Press, 1969. x, 322 pp. Foreword, introduction, index. \$8.50.)

Fletcher M. Green, former Kenan Professor and chairman of the department of history at the University of North Carolina, has been widely recognized as the dean of southern historians. During his career Professor Green directed the studies of a prodigious number of graduate students. A count made two years before his retirement showed that ninety persons had received the Ph.D. under his direction, 150 had completed the M.A. degree, and twenty-five were still working with him on dissertations. Green students have taught in half the states of the Union, and in England, Germany, France, Japan, Korea, and India. In Florida they count among their number the late Rembert W. Patrick, James Leon Alderman, Vaughn Camp, Margaret L. Chapman, Katherine Chatham, J. E. Dovell, John E. Johns, Jr., Evans C. Johnson, William Warren Rogers, and this reviewer.

The twelve essays reprinted here were written by Professor Green over a thirty-year period and to some degree reflect his growth as an historian. They show also his interest in varied aspects of American history. They touch upon gold mining in North Carolina, the attempts of Duff Green to promote nineteenth century American industrial development, the growth of political democracy in the Old South, the broadening and growing practice of democracy on the national scene, the evolution of Fourth of July celebrations in the century after 1776, the presidential tours of Andrew Jackson, the wide degree of literacy among Confederate soldiers, the availability of higher education for women in the Old South, the writings of Thomas P. Kettell on economics and history, the development of the convict lease system in southern states, and the renewal of southern sectionalism in mid-twentieth century.

Florida readers will look especially for Professor Green's essay on William Watson Davis. Though he grew up in Alabama and spent most of his professional life at the University of Kansas, Watson Davis was born in Pensacola and authored the monumental volume, *Civil War and Reconstruction in Florida* in 1913. In 1964 the University of Florida Press reprinted the Davis book in a facsimile edition and Fletcher Green was asked to prepare the introduction. It is that thoughtful, carefully prepared essay which is reprinted here.

Like all that Fletcher Green undertakes to do, these essays,

distributed over a life-time, are marked by honesty and thoroughness. As editor Isaac Copeland put it, in his research, in his writing, in his teaching, in any assessment of Green, "the most impressive quality is the man's absolute integrity." This volume stands as another monument to a sound scholar, an inspiring teacher, and a good man.

HERBERT J. DOHERTY, JR.

*University of Florida*

*Joel Chandler Harris: A Biography.* By Paul M. Cousins. (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1968. xiv, 237 pp. Foreword, introduction, illustrations, bibliography, index. \$7.50.)

*Fire From the Flint: The Amazing Careers of Thomas Dixon.* By Raymond Allen Cook. (Winston-Salem: John F. Blair, Publisher, 1968. ix, 255 pp. Foreword, illustrations, bibliography. \$6.00.)

Even though the two books under review are biographies of fiction writers, they should interest historians of the South. Both subjects grew up in the South during the Reconstruction period. Both men wrote extensively of that time and expressed the desire to "put the record straight." While they both had national reputations for their fiction, Harris earned his living as a newspaperman in Atlanta, and Dixon was at various times a clergyman, Chautauqua lecturer, and pioneer movie-maker.

Cousins' biography of Joel Chandler Harris is a well-rounded portrait of a personally-shy newspaperman and story-teller who was widely admired for his wit and for his creation of some of the most delightful characters in American fiction. In the first quarter of the book, Professor Cousins lays the foundation for Harris' personality development by describing the Civil War and Reconstruction conditions in Harris' section of Georgia. He also delineates the personalities of some of the persons who influenced Harris' maturation.

Then, he describes Harris' parallel development as an Atlanta newspaperman and raconteur of Negro legends and tales of the antebellum and post-bellum South. It is a smoothly-

narrated story of a southern writer's struggle for national recognition. In the process, Professor Cousins provides insights into the gradual healing of the wounds inflicted by the North and South on one another.

By contrast, *Fire from the Flint* concerns a Southerner whose sectional bias was vividly expressed through all of his "amazing careers." For example, there was Dixon's racial prejudice in his novel, *The Clansman*, and the movie, *The Birth of the Nation*. Professor Cook rationalizes it with references to the "high purpose" of the Ku Klux Klan. However, he does not state what that purpose was, except in rather vague and general terms.

The book is a perceptive examination of the social ferment of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Professor Cook does an especially good job of describing Dixon's role in the controversies of those times. However, he sketches most of these issues with a frustrating lack of analysis of Dixon's motivations other than his desire to justify white supremacy. What is somewhat puzzling is that the book lacks a critical appraisal of Dixon's creative works. While there are quotations from contemporary critics reviewing Dixon's novels and plays, Professor Cook does not judge the literary achievements of Thomas Dixon.

The biography of Joel Chandler Harris comes off better than that portraying the careers of Thomas Dixon. Dixon is more fascinating than Harris, but Professor Cook does not capture the vibrancy of his subject as does Professor Cousins. Nevertheless, both books make interesting reading for the historian of the South.

GERALD E. CRITOPH

*Stetson University*

*History Under the Sea: A Handbook For Underwater Exploration.* By Mendel Peterson. (Washington: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1969. xvi, 208 pp. Acknowledgments, introduction map, illustrations, charts, selected bibliography, appendix. \$5.95.)

*History Under the Sea*, according to Mendel Peterson, curator of Armed Forces History at the Smithsonian, was written to fill

at least partially the need for a single volume to which a "serious underwater explorer" might turn for information "on the techniques by which a site may be systematically explored and by which objects from it may be recovered, preserved and identified." The introduction and first chapter of the book, the latter explaining where and why Historical Period shipwreck sites may be found, make interesting reading. Subsequent chapters range in topic from details of several interesting but dated (the most recent in 1959) finds and "expeditions" to underwater sites in this hemisphere, through techniques for locating such sites and preserving recoveries, to various means of identification.

Probably the major shortcoming of the book as it was apparently conceived by the author as a guide of sorts for the diver with an interest in archeology and history and the treasure hunter, is that the discussion, particularly of the latter topics mentioned above, does not reflect the development and refinement of techniques which have taken place since 1965 when the work was released in soft cover as Smithsonian Publication 4538.

However, an even more disturbing aspect of this book, from the point of view of the archeologist, has to be its purpose. Faced with the rampant and increasing destruction of the scientifically and historically valuable but limited number of underwater sites occurring at the hands of the growing numbers of sport and treasure divers, the author, whose formal training is in history, completely oversteps his area of competency and prepares a "handbook" of rudimentary archeological field techniques and aids to identification of artifacts which, in effect, offers encouragement to the "explorers" to continue their depredations. By attempting to make "archeologists" out of the divers the author indicates that he does not or cannot draw the distinction between the scientific recovery of artifacts from underwater archeological sites by or under the immediate supervision of qualified archeologists which constitutes "underwater archeology" and the indiscriminate "salvage" of artifacts even by well-meaning divers which typically results in at least the partial destruction of the site and the loss of a very significant portion, possibly all, of the scientific value of the artifacts. In fact there is nothing in the book to indicate that the author's

concept of archeology goes beyond what an archeologist would describe as basic field techniques, the necessary initial steps in gathering data to evaluate. The book's major theme appears to be that recovered artifacts serve simply as tools to date the shipwreck and determine its nationality, narrowing the historical research necessary to identify the vessel so that its history can be determined and written, rather than as elements of material culture which can be used to trace the development of, for example, certain aspects of science, technology, and commerce. Most archeologist would hold that a more complete view of the wreck as a cultural entity would result from a combination of adequate historical research and archeological analysis.

Whatever Peterson's book may be, it is not a "handbook of underwater archeology" as the text inside the jacket of the book states. It does provide the reader with an interesting blend of mid-twentieth century technology and nineteenth century antiquarianism spiced with a dash of romantic adventure. This book in its previous and present editions will continue to be of more than passing interest to the underwater hobbyist, particularly the treasure hunter, for the purpose of identifying shipwrecks which may prove of commercial value. However, it is of limited value to the professional archeologist or historian except possibly as an introduction to some of the special problems encountered in recovering and handling materials from underwater sites.

CARL J. CLAUSEN

*Bureau of Historic Sites and Properties  
Department of State, Tallahassee, Florida*