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Book Reviews

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BOOKS REVIEWS

A *History of Florida*. By Charlton W. Tebeau. (Coral Gables: University of Miami Press, 1971. xiv, 512 pp. Illustrations, maps, preface, appendices, bibliography, index. \$12.50.)

The reader will find this volume to be a truly comprehensive history of Florida—from the Ice Age to Disney World. The emphasis is on political history, but adequate attention is given to salient social and economic factors. The treatment is essentially chronological; the textual pattern that emerges is a chapter on politics followed by one on social and economic history.

After a brief chapter on physiography and the aboriginal inhabitants, the fast-moving narrative covers the 458 years of Florida's recorded history in approximately that number of pages. About one-fourth of the text is devoted to prehistoric Florida, discovery and exploration, and the Spanish and British colonial periods; something less than half to nineteenth century American Florida, including two chapters on the Civil War and one on the Spanish-American War; and the remainder to the present century.

Although the text incorporates the latest scholarly findings in all periods, the chapters devoted to the twentieth century are the most valuable. A great mass of information, not readily available elsewhere, is brought together here. There are interesting chapters on both World Wars, "The Management of Natural Resources" (which might more appropriately have been entitled "Water Management Policies"), and the great land boom of the twenties.

The book seems designed for the general reader, but it undoubtedly will be used as a college textbook. Both lay reader and student can peruse it with pleasure and profit. Unfortunately, the latter should bear in mind that there are errors, insignificant in themselves but disturbing in number. The most common mistakes are careless dating and the misspelling of proper names. Some of the former are inconsequential; others confuse the reader. Most of the spelling errors seem due to faulty transcription, but in several instances two men are confused. Major Robert Gamble of Manatee, for instance, is con-

fused with both his father, John G. Gamble, and his cousin, Robert H. Gamble, the two Roberts being indexed in the same entry. The index, in fact, is deplorable. Persons mentioned several times in the text but not indexed include Bienville, Bernardo de Galvez, Andrew Turnbull, Woodbine and Nicholls, and Eligius Fromentin. And where a name is indexed, the entry does not always include all references in the text. There are shortcomings, also, in the indexing of subjects: missing are such entries as tobacco, taxes or taxation, phosphate, and lumber or timber.

There are two appendices, the first a list of all the governors of Florida, the second a table of the 1960 and 1970 censuses of Florida by counties. An eighteen-page bibliography, arranged by major periods, constitutes an adequate guide to the literature of Florida. The book, as a book, is handsomely designed and well illustrated, mainly with contemporary photographs from the Civil War period on.

This is an important book and, all in all, a good one. It is to be hoped that the errors mentioned will be eliminated in a second edition, for this will be the standard history of Florida for some years to come.

Tallahassee, Florida

Dorothy Dodd

Pioneer Life in Southeast Florida By Charles W. Pierce. Edited by Donald W. Curl. (Coral Gables: University of Miami Press, 1970. 264 pp. Foreword, preface, introduction, notes, illustrations, index. \$7.95.)

To read Charles W. Pierce's first-hand account of "Pioneer Life in Southeast Florida" is to experience vicariously the emotions of the pioneers who turned a formidable wilderness into a delightful haven for settlers and tourists.

Charles was only seven years of age in 1872 when he came to Florida with his family. A good memory enabled him in later years to record his early adventures. In adulthood, when he began preparing a book-length manuscript, he used not only his own diary and logs but the diary which his educated mother had kept through the years. There was a definite intellectual

climate in the Pierce family, although Charles himself had had no strictly formal education. This account of life in the Lake Worth area begins when the Pierce family arrived and settled on an orange grove on the Indian River. Excitement began almost immediately with the loss of their possessions by fire. They were obliged to move into the Jupiter Lighthouse, where the author's father became assistant keeper. In rapid succession the boy experienced hurricanes, shipwrecks, and contacts with drinking Indians and hungry bears. Subsequent experience included life in the Orange Grove House of Refuge on Lake Worth and a two-year stay in the Biscayne Bay House of Refuge, where the author's father became keeper.

As the narrative unfolds, Pierce introduces prominent settlers and describes commercial, recreational, and political developments. His accounts of boating, hunting, and exploratory trips through streams and marshes are as intriguing as the descriptions of the plant and animal life.

Pierce had completed his 200,000 word manuscript a short while before his death in 1939. Years later through the efforts of Judge James R. Knott, president of the Palm Beach County Historical Association, Dr. Donald Walter Curl, chairman of the history department of the Florida Atlantic University was persuaded to edit and shorten the manuscript for publication. Professor Curl's skill in performing this task is highly praised in the book's foreword by Theodore Pratt, author of *The Barefoot Mailman*. "An editor must be a very good editor," wrote Pratt, "not to give way to the easy temptation to rewrite, correct, and change what he is editing to conform to his own designs." Important also in the printed book is the Introduction, written by Gilbert Voss, nephew of the author. Voss points out that Pierce had been at one time one of the area's barefoot mailmen. The book's paper jacket, designed by Bernard Lipsky, is in itself an invitation to read the book. The illustrations add considerably to the book's charm.

The last historical event in the era Pierce was recording was the coming of the railroad in 1894 to West Palm Beach. By 1893, he wrote, there were already eight postoffices on Lake Worth, and the founding of West Palm Beach brought an end to an era. Pierce closed with these words: "The pioneer days, like the little

boats with their 'wings of the wind,' remained only as a pleasant memory." In describing settlers as they turned a wild wilderness into a tropical paradise, the author had achieved his goal.

Miami, Florida

Ruby Leach Carson

Plant Wizard, The Life of Lue Gim Gong. By Marian Murray. (New York: Crowell-Collier, 1970. 118 pp. Introduction, illustrations, bibliography, index. \$3.95.)

There was a time when most juvenile biographies tended to be long on story but often short on historical truth. Fortunately, the Parson Weems brand of juvenile story is much more rare today. The writer of books for children and teenagers is still allowed certain liberties, such as the invention of some dialogue where the actual words are unknown. But most editors and writers of juvenile books now insist on basic historical accuracy, and publishers frequently hire historians to check for errors.

The accurate and clearly written juvenile can pack a tremendous amount of information into a very limited space, and Marian Murray's biography of Lue Gim Gong does just that. For readers of elementary and high school age, it also tells a very good story about an uneducated Chinese boy who came to the United States as a coolie laborer in 1871, and by simple instinctive genius made himself an internationally famous pomologist, the "Chinese Burbank."

Miss Murray's interest has centered chiefly on Lue's youth and the problems of an alien's adjustment to America. This makes an informative and entertaining story for young readers, but leaves very limited space for Lue's work in Florida. Yet in the four short chapters given to this, Miss Murray crowds a great deal of fact. Lue Gim Gong first arrived in DeLand, Florida, in 1886, while still a young man. He remained in DeLand, except for several summers spent in Massachusetts, until his death in 1925. As a child his mother in China had taught him how to cross-pollinate flowers, and apparently this was the only horticultural instruction he ever had. Yet during his northern summers he developed a new species of early-ripening

apple, a late-ripening peach, something called a cherry-currant, and several other fruits well known and popular in his day.

Lue's most important work, however, was with Florida citrus. He developed the Lue Gim Gong grapefruit and the Lue Gim Gong orange, a summer-ripening species that is still widely grown. National magazines wrote articles referring to him as "Florida's wonderful old plant wizard" and the "Chinese wizard of the orange." The American Pomological Society awarded him its Wilder Silver Medal and the state of Florida honored him at both the 1933 and 1939 World Fairs. A childlike but devoutly religious man, Lue was an easy mark for various unscrupulous nurserymen who robbed him blind, and if it had not been for the help of Edgar Wright, editor of the *Florida Grower*, he would have died in poverty.

Anna Maria, Florida

WYATT BLASSINGAME

Homenaje a Don José María de la Peña y Cámara. Edited by Ernest J. Burrus, S. J. and George P. Hammond. (Madrid: Ediciones José Porrúa Turanzas, 1969. xii, 287 pp. Colección Chimalistac, Vol. 3, Serie Jose Porrúa Turanzas, illustration. 700 pesetas, \$10.00.)

For almost four decades scholars digging through the richest repository of documents concerning Spain's role in America at Sevilla, Spain, have availed themselves of the friendship and wise acumen of the director of the Archivo General de Indias. Now Don José de la Peña has retired; but those who knew him and benefited from his enthusiastic support have not forgotten him. This volume containing fourteen essays from world-renowned scholars who have labored diligently in the AGI is a fitting testimonial to Sr. de la Peña.

There is something here for everyone concerned in Spain's contribution to this hemisphere's history. There are bibliographical studies by Father Ernest J. Burrus, S. J.—"Bandelier's Manuscript Sources for the Study of the American Southwest"—and Father Charles Edwards O'Neill, S.J.—"Catalogues and Microfilm: The Louisiana Project of Loyola University (New Orleans) in the Archivo General de Indias." Lewis Hanke, whose classic

study of the Spanish struggle for justice in the Indies is "must" reading for all Latin Americanists, explains the University of California at Irvine (where he recently taught) support of a project for research and publication of the *memorias* of colonial Latin American viceroys. Professor George P. Hammond, who has spent years of excellent research in Spain, relates the success of the program of the Native Sons of California in providing scholarships for qualified scholars to do research in Spain.

Literary historians owe a debt to Irving A. Leonard (of *Books of the Brave* fame) for his excellent essay, "Random Thoughts on Spanish American Letters." "Mr. Consulado"—Robert S. Smith—provides an excellent survey of the research done and in progress on that vital institution of provincial government and economics, the *consulado*. Biographers who have spent many hours exploring their subjects present some thought-provoking analyses: France V. Scholes tells us of the "Last Days of Gonzalo de Sandoval Conquistador of New Spain." Donald E. Chipman lends substance to the life of the controversial Nuño de Guzmán and his "Grand Design" for colonial Mexico. W. Michael Mathes covers the important California explorations of Sebastián Vizcaíno. Of most interest to Florida historians is the essay by Professor Charles W. Arnade of the University of South Florida entitled "More About Gonzalo Méndez Canço, Governor of Florida (1596-1603)."

Social historians will welcome the essays by the Swedish Latin Americanist, Magnus Mörner, on Ecuador ("Aspectos sociorraciales del proceso de poblamiento en la Audiencia de Quito durante los siglos xvi y xvii"); and the penetrating study of the prohibition against colonial officials' marrying creoles by Richard Konetzke, "La prohibición de casarse los oidores o sus hijos e hijas con naturales del distrito de la Audiencia." Medical historians should examine with interest John Tate Lanning's study, "The Illicit Practice of Medicine in the Spanish Empire in America." Miguel Bordeneau y Mas, director of the Archivo de Protocolos in Madrid, relates the career and contributions of the man to whom the volume is dedicated, Don José María de la Peña y Cámara.

It is customary that essays in such a *homenaje* be uneven in quality, but this volume is a pleasant exception. All are of great value to historians in general and to Latin Americanists in par-

titular. No scholar should fail to acquaint himself with this book. "Pepe" Porrúa should also be congratulated for publishing this volume at a moderate price, a departure from the earlier Chimalistac Series on New Spain, the volumes of which appeared in an expensive and limited edition.

University of Alabama in Birmingham

JACK D. L. HOLMES

The Spanish Borderlands Frontier 1513-1821. By John Francis Bannon. Histories of the American Frontier. (New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1970. xii, 308 pp. Preface, foreword, maps, illustrations, bibliographical notes, index. \$7.95; \$3.95 paper.)

The name Herbert Eugene Bolton is significant for several reasons. He popularized the Spanish Borderlands as an area in need of careful study. During the major part of his long and fruitful academic career, Bolton devoted his attention and that of his students to research and to writing about the region. In fact, he may rank as the American historian who stimulated his students to the greatest productivity. John Francis Bannon was one of Bolton's students whose many publications about the Spanish Borderlands have earned him a richly deserved scholarly reputation. Father Bannon's book might, as he suggests, be a golden jubilee volume, appearing as it does almost fifty years after Bolton's *Spanish Borderlands* was published in 1921.

Father Bannon's able synthesis covers the Spanish Borderlands from Florida to California during the years 1513 to 1821. He purposely did not include the Mexican period (post-1821) in Texas and the New Southwest. The study is well written. The essential and important topics appear to provide a good survey of Borderlands history. A list of the viceroys of New Spain who exercised some jurisdiction over most of the Borderlands at one time or another is provided. His footnotes and bibliographic essay are a sound guide to the pertinent literature especially for the area west of Louisiana. The maps are new, and the illustrations well selected.

On behalf of those who have chosen to labor in the vineyards of the Spanish Borderlands east of Texas, a slight note of

disappointment is registered. Father Bannon seemed reluctant to include this area as a rightful part of the Spanish Borderlands, and even referred to *Luisiana* as a quasi-borderland. It is also unfortunate that Father Bannon completed his study before he could take advantage of the research by the current generation of scholars working on the eastern half of the Borderlands. In particular, Jack D. L. Holmes, Gilbert C. Din, John G. Clark, and Father Charles Edwards O'Neill, among others, have all done yeoman work in recent years on Spanish Louisiana and West Florida. This reviewer noted only one reference to Holmes who has published numerous articles and several books on this area in the last ten years. But, even such old standards as Caroline Burson's study of Governor Esteban Miró published in 1940 is missing from the bibliography. Also absent were many excellent articles on the Spanish period appearing in the last thirty years or so in the various historical journals published throughout the southeast. Thus, Father Bannon's bibliography for this region should be supplemented with several new guides published too late to be incorporated in his book: Jack D. L. Holmes, *A Guide to Spanish Louisiana* (New Orleans, 1970), and William S. Coker and Jack D. L. Holmes, "Sources for the History of the Spanish Borderlands," *Florida Historical Quarterly*, XLIX (April 1971). In addition, scheduled to appear in the summer 1972 issue of the *Latin American Research Review* are four articles and a 600-title bibliography dealing with current research possibilities and resources for a study of Spanish Louisiana and West Florida.

In spite of the foregoing caveat, Bannon's book is an important contribution to the study of the "Boltonlands," as some refer to them. It will serve as a valuable new textbook.

University of West Florida

WILLIAM S. COKER

A History of the Indians of the United States. By Angie Debo. (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1970. xvii, 386 pp. Preface, illustrations, maps, selected readings, index. \$8.95.)

Miss Angie Debo, well-known for her work on the history of Oklahoma and the Five Civilized Tribes, now offers a general

history of the American Indians of the United States, including Eskimos and Aleuts. This volume is primarily intended as a textbook for courses in American Indian history on a college undergraduate or perhaps an advanced high school level, but it would also be useful to the general reader. The approach is conventional. A brief account of the major Amerindian cultures introduces a history of military, diplomatic, and political pressures exerted by the United States and its predecessors upon various Indian peoples with the objectives of, first, depriving them of their ancestral lands and then destroying their very existence.

Miss Debo's account is a harrowing one, particularly when she deals with comparatively recent developments. One can understand—although certainly not justify—such episodes of the “bad old days” of Indian Removal and the Dawes Act, but Chapter 19, entitled “Back to the Old Bad Days,” begins: “The years from 1950 through 1960 marked the most concerted drive against Indian property and Indian survival since the removals following the act of 1830 and the liquidation of tribes and reservations following 1887.” This is too close to our own times for comfort or complacency. Several otherwise highly respected politicians come out very badly (e.g., pp. 326, 329; 277-78, 287). The final chapter is “The Indians Find New Hope,” but this hope obviously can be easily dashed without eternal vigilance by both united Indians and concerned whites.

Highly useful are the over seventy well-selected illustrations and the four maps. No author could write a history of such a scope without at least minor errors and omissions. The highly important Chinookan group does not appear among Northwest Coast peoples (p. 12, but see p. 86). Osceola's importance is conventionally exaggerated by disregarding all other Seminole leaders (pp. 109-10). Although the Kickapoo settlement near Nacimiento, Coahuila, received considerable attention, the earlier migration of Seminole Indians and Negroes to the same location is not mentioned. I think, too, that the Battle of Dove Creek, January 8, 1865, in which the Kickapoo trounced the Texans, has been split into two separate actions (pp. 145-46, 176). That the Sioux War of 1862 in Minnesota was “the most disastrous Indian uprising white Americans had experienced” since King Philip's War (p. 157) is questionable — *vide* Pontiac's Uprising.

The one serious weakness is in the so-called “Selected Read-

ings" which are nothing more than footnote references, often relating to isolated and not particularly important episodes, transferred without comment to the end of the volume. The omission of Frederick W. Hodge's indispensable if somewhat outdated *Handbook*, and David Corkran's recent works on the Cherokee and Creek frontiers, and the inclusion of personal reminiscences and local histories of at best peripheral significance are inexplicable. A well-organized and critical bibliographical essay, which Miss Debo is certainly well qualified to prepare, should be substituted.

But, as it stands, if I were offering a lower division course in American Indian history, I should probably use this somewhat detailed and yet not too-detailed textbook.

University of Oregon

KENNETH WIGGINS PORTER

The Removal of the Choctaw Indians. By Arthur H. De Rosier, Jr. (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1970. xii, 208 pp. Foreword, acknowledgments, illustrations, appendices, bibliography, index. \$7.50.)

This book is an account of the nineteenth-century removal of the Choctaw Indians from their tribal lands in what is today the state of Mississippi to federal territory west of the Mississippi River. It is a thoroughly researched study by a more than competent scholar who has synthesized an enormous amount of primary information into a lucid and highly readable volume. Dr. De Rosier's work fills an important gap in the literature concerning the Choctaw—perhaps the most interesting as well as the most numerous of the southern Indian nations. It is not, however, a book which will be of interest solely to the student of the southern Indian. Rather, it has an important place in the literature bearing on our national history from the administration of Thomas Jefferson through the presidency of Andrew Jackson.

Thomas Jefferson comes under De Rosier's close scrutiny and emerges as a somewhat tarnished hero on the basis of his cold determination to uproot the Indian tribes from their hallowed eastern lands for transportation to the new federal territories acquired through the Louisiana Purchase.

The actual removal of almost 13,000 Choctaws from Mississippi to what is today the state of Oklahoma extended over a period of sixteen years from 1818 to 1834. It profoundly affected the lives of the Indians and whites of the regions concerned and, perhaps more importantly, established the pattern for the removal of many other tribes during the nineteenth century. It may be convincingly argued that the national conscience of America's white majority was severely troubled by the pathos and human suffering which accompanied these hapless Indians along their "Trails of Tears" to the west. It may also be that the present generation in our nation is undergoing a period of soul searching and is sincerely attempting to redress some of the sins which our forefathers perpetrated against the original inhabitants of this continent. Dr. De Rosier's book, while not couched in the strident terms of the "Red Power" advocates, should assist all who read it to conclude that President Nixon's recent statements concerning a renewed dedication to insure Indian rights are long overdue.

The only serious negative criticism which this reviewer would direct against Dr. De Rosier's book concerns its paucity of clarifying maps to accompany his well-written text. The three maps which are included are very helpful, but others seem necessary to allow the reader to visualize the several boundaries and cessions. For example, the western lands ceded by the federal government to the Choctaws are verbally delineated on page 124, but they are not shown on any of the maps. Geographical ignorance of the sort which led to the problems following the Treaty of Doak's Stand should not be allowed to plague the contemporary reader.

University of Georgia

LOUIS DE VORSEY, JR.

The Papers of Henry Laurens, Volume II: Nov. 1, 1755–Dec. 31, 1758. Edited by Philip M. Hamer, George C. Rogers, Jr., and Peggy J. Wehage. (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1970. xxv, 580 pp. Introduction, list of abbreviations and dates, illustration, index. \$15.00.)

This, the second volume of the *Papers of Henry Laurens*, continues the years of Laurens's junior partnership with George

Austin. The letters indicate a broadening circle of trade with prominent merchants in the West Indies, Philadelphia, Newport, London, Bristol, and other British home ports. The correspondence also indicates the increased energies of the South Carolina rice and indigo planters, whose heavy custom in slaves and manufactured goods laid the basis of wealth for the merchants of the low country.

The letters are concerned chiefly with business. Then with the disaster of Braddock's defeat, especially, July 9, 1755, Charleston businessmen became increasingly worried over the French threat to the future of the back country into which they were expanding with land investments and trade and the effect of impending war with France on American commerce. Laurens reached such prominence by 1756 that he was elected to the Commons House of Assembly, and in recognition of his talents and his new identity with the planter interest, having purchased a plantation, he was immediately accorded a position of first rank and manned the important committees. Thus matters of provincial and imperial politics begin in this volume. (See *e.g.*, p. 167, ff.)

The editing remains excellent. The Introduction, embracing the period of this volume, presents much guidance to the user, and the abstracted materials prove to be peripheral Laurens papers—standard legal documents, such as deeds—which attest to the editors' skill and judgment. Nothing important has been excluded. (See *Journal of Southern History*, XXXV, pp. 253-55.) Even newspaper advertisements of the Laurens-Austin firm, extracts from governmental journals which recorded Laurens's thoughts or activities, and letters signed by Laurens in common with others enrich this volume.

Georgetown University

RICHARD WALSH

Gouverneur Morris and the American Revolution. By Max M. Mintz. (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1970. xiii, 284 pp. Preface, illustrations, bibliography, index. \$8.95.)

Gouverneur Morris, outstanding among the Founding Fathers, has suffered from piece-meal treatment by biographers. We are

still waiting for a good, comprehensive treatment of the man. This work by Max M. Mintz is not presented as a full biography, even though it does include significant materials in the life of Morris before 1775 and until his death in 1816. The main emphasis is on the work of Morris at the opening of the Revolution, during the course of the Revolution, and at the constitutional convention in 1787. His contributions are clearly described, with no bias and no attempt at exaggeration.

Morris had such a fascinating personality and such rich and varied experiences, that it should not be difficult to write an interesting biography. The average reader will find this book pleasant reading throughout, and professional historians will be pleased by the way it elucidates New York politics during the Revolution, the inner workings of the Continental Congress, and to a lesser degree, the constitutional convention.

It seems to me that more could have been done to bring out Morris's personality. Some topics are unfinished. No attempt is made, for instance, to account for Morris's long absences from his work. This book has the markings of good historical scholarship, but there are some surprising gaps in the bibliography. Three collections of papers in the Massachusetts Historical Society are listed, but there is no mention of the Adams papers. Ford's edition of Jefferson's *Writings* were used, instead of the Boyd edition, now in process, which covers the period more thoroughly. Gilpin's three-volume (1840) edition of Madison's *Papers* is listed but not Hunt's nine-volume edition. It is obvious, nevertheless, that Mintz drew his information from a wide variety of sources. This work is a welcome addition to the growing list of good monographs that are bringing out the story of the birth of our nation.

Stetson University

GILBERT L. LYCAN

The Slave Catchers: Enforcement of the Fugitive Slave Law, 1850-1860. By Stanley W. Campbell. (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1970. viii, 236 pp. Preface, appendices, bibliography, index. \$8.00.)

Professor Stanley W. Campbell has written a detailed study of the Fugitive Slave Law of 1850, focusing on its operation in

the free states. The author also includes a discussion of the statute's origins, enactment, and constitutionality.

For over a century, historians have accepted the common antebellum belief that the Fugitive Slave Law was rendered a dead letter by hostile northern opinion. But before Campbell, no scholar had taken the trouble to examine the primary sources in order to test this assumption. After extensive research in records of the executive and judicial branches in the National Archives, in documents of the senate and house, and in newspaper and periodical files, the author proves that, despite northern hostility, "the law was enforced by those charged with responsibility for enforcement, namely, officers of the federal courts." Of the cases which came before the fugitive slave tribunals created by the statute, over eighty percent of the runaways involved were remanded to their owners; only twelve percent of those in federal custody escaped or were rescued.

Because the Fugitive Slave Law was the one concession the South received in the Compromise of 1850, the region demanded that the statute be faithfully observed. But the publicity given the few cases where fugitive slaves escaped or were rescued convinced many southern leaders that the free states could not be counted on to keep their part of the bargain. The North had been given one last chance to prove itself, and it had failed; now, the only alternative remaining was disunion.

Professor Campbell is quick to point out that "Secessionists who justified secession on the grounds that the Fugitive Slave Law had not been enforced were, perhaps unknowingly, using a false issue." There is, undoubtedly, an element of tragic irony in the author's discovery that rebellion was founded on an erroneous conviction, but the fact remains that what men believe is often more important than what is. Even if citizens of the free states had not physically interfered with the operation of the statute, would this really have changed the situation? The hostility of the North to the Fugitive Slave Law represented a moral condemnation of the entire South. The unbearable weight of this judgment is what secessionists hoped to escape.

University of Miami

JOHN F. REIGER

Partners in Rebellion: Alabama Women in the Civil War. By H. E. Sterkx. (Cranbury, New Jersey: Associated University Presses, 1970. 238 pp. Preface, acknowledgments, illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$10.00.)

Since the thirties most scholarly books about women in war-time have been regional or national in scope rather than limited to one state. These more comprehensive accounts, in summarizing feminine activities in the Union and the Confederacy, have drawn information from primary and secondary materials pertaining to all areas. Therefore the historian who confines his work to women in a single state should produce an in-depth study that imaginatively presents an abundance of heretofore unpublished information and offers a fresh interpretation. Unfortunately, Professor Sterkx has fallen short of this ideal.

Although *Partners in Rebellion: Alabama Women in the Civil War* is well-written, it is an overly sympathetic, uneven, unimaginative account. The author shows that Alabama women were like those elsewhere in the Confederacy. They recruited, sacrificed, skimped, brooded, wept, nursed, joined aid societies, devised makeshifts, lost loved ones, and grew weary of the struggle, while some danced, partied, flirted, wed, and gadded. But scarcely noted, or ignored completely, were the "partners in rebellion" who carped, whimpered, sinned, hoarded, and manifested other human frailties. The author seems reluctant to discuss the earthy, sordid behavior which surfaced during the war, as when making cursory mention of prostitution in Alabama and, with a single exception, supporting his statements with examples from outside the state (pp. 66-67). There are other aspects of the woman's world that are handled superficially, including all phases of education, occupations of women who worked outside the home, especially those in industry, the "thousands" of out-of-state refugees in Alabama, and the Alabama women who were displaced by the war. Somewhat offsetting the prosaism and omissions is an interesting and informative discussion of the articulate women who directly or indirectly exercised influence on officials.

The most glaring weaknesses in this study stem from the author's failure to investigate thoroughly and familiarize himself completely with manuscripts he mentions as having used,

and this is especially true of those in the six repositories he visited outside Alabama. Two examples are the Nathaniel Henry Rhodes Dawson Papers which include delightful letters written by Elodie Todd to Dawson, a valuable source of information about women's activities in the Selma area, and the Jane Sivley Letters which give insight to Judson College in wartime and to a student's views and problems. The Todd letters are cited twice and those written by Jane Sivley not at all, although one she received from her brother is quoted, but he is identified as a North Carolinian (p. 60), and a careful perusal of the communications clearly indicate both were Mississippians. In the same collection as these manuscripts are other materials relating to the subject but apparently not investigated, notably the Benedict Joseph Semmes Papers containing Mrs. Semmes letters to her husband which tell of homefront conditions in the environs of Gainesville, Alabama. This is a serious omission, since Semmes was related to the Alabama family of the same name and also to the Knox family, both of whom are mentioned in the letters.

Because most errors are minor ones, no attempt will be made to list them, but the author should be prepared for criticism from North Carolinians for his having placed Roanoke Island in Virginia (p. 85). And finally, it is unfortunate that scores of proper names mentioned in the book are not listed in the index, including six of the women whose portraits appear in the interesting array of illustrations.

Winthrop College

MARY ELIZABETH MASSEY

Lincoln and the Politics of Slavery. By John S. Wright. (Reno: University of Nevada Press, 1970. xiii, 215 pp. Preface, political calendar, bibliography, index. \$6.00.)

In this slim, well-written monograph Professor Wright examines the interaction between the politician-Abraham Lincoln – and the moral issue– slavery. Most of the volume is a narrative of Lincoln's career from his entrance into Congress in 1846 until his election to the presidency in 1860. He is portrayed as a dedicated Whig who concealed his life-long hatred of slavery

until the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Bill of 1854, and thereafter took successively firmer public positions against it. According to the author, milestones in the transition were:

(1) joining the Republican Party by 1856 and opposing the extension of the "peculiar institution" into Kansas, and (2) slowly moving in 1857-1858 to the posture that slavery should and could be extinguished by the constitutional methods restricting it to areas where it already existed. During and after the senatorial campaign against Douglas, Lincoln is depicted as master politician, always conscious of proper timing, who realized that public sentiment had finally caught up with his view of slavery as a moral wrong.

Wright presents a convincing argument that Lincoln brilliantly nurtured a moral issue in which he firmly believed to attain success for himself and his party. However, some readers may not share the author's revulsion towards the abolitionists; others may doubt the contention that Lincoln repeatedly placed the future of the Republican Party over his personal career, or that his increasingly rigid public stance on slavery does not smack of opportunism.

The individual who desires to watch Lincoln on the stage of Illinois politics will find this book enlightening and readable. But the historian who has kept abreast of recent scholarship will wish that the author had gone beyond standard secondary research. Those who have read Don Fehrenbacher's *Prelude to Greatness: Lincoln in the 1850's* will have a feeling of *deja vu*.

University of South Florida

JOHN M. BELOHLAVEK

Frontier Law and Order: Ten Essays. By Philip D. Jordan. (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1970. x, 182 pp. Preface, index. \$6.95.)

One wishes this book could have been written for popular consumption. No one likes crime or condones it, but in placing the present lawless condition of our country in historical perspective, we can at least take some assurance that we are not hell-bent for chaos— or if we are, it has been long in coming and is still far away in time. Such is the conclusion reached by

Dr. Jordan, and he documents his statements convincingly.

In a series of ten essays (seven of them previously published) he dispenses with the traditional treatment of frontier crime and violence. Instead, he analyzes the laws concerning the wearing of weapons in the new country, including a carefully compiled appendix of these laws in the several states as of 1890. He becomes descriptive in his essay on "The Mississippi— Spillway of Sin," and in other papers he attempts to separate facts from myths concerning gamblers, prostitutes, horse thieves (he gives statistics on horse-thief penalties), and the general condition of law enforcement and judicial procedure on the American frontier. In the process a different, obviously more accurate portrayal of the real situation regarding frontier law and order emerges.

Geographically the concentration is on the Mississippi Valley, but all sections of the nation enter into the story. This is as it should be, since all sections were once frontier areas. Northern Florida, as a part of the Old Southwest, is well represented by implication if not by specific examples.

A collection of essays which have for the most part appeared elsewhere is likely to suffer from repetition and a lack of cohesion. As for the latter, the subject matter is acceptably strung together. As for the former, a criticism of slipshod editing is in order. There is much repetition of incidents (the Galt House murder, the lynching of gamblers at Vicksburg, the burning of a Negro at St. Louis, the murder of a deaf and dumb prostitute), and there is even repetition of documentation. Possibly this is unavoidable in a book of essays, but in any case it is annoying.

Yet, with Professor Jordan's colorful language, his well-turned phrases, and his obvious gusto in writing on the subject, this is an interesting book; in its carefully researched subject matter, it is also an important one.

Florida State University

RICHARD A. BARTLETT

Theodore Roosevelt and the Art of Controversy: Episodes of the White House Years. By Willard B. Gatewood, Jr. (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1970. vii, 294 pp. Preface, index. \$8.95.)

Disclaiming any attempt to offer a new interpretation of

the Republican Roosevelt or of his presidency, Professor Gatewood has focused upon some half-dozen, diverse issues to "reveal something of significance about Roosevelt as a man and political leader" and to provide commentary on the "Rooseveltian affinity for combat." An introductory essay summarizes and synthesizes what Roosevelt's contemporaries, as well as leading historians of him and his era, have said about his many-sided, pugnacious personality. Then three essays deal with Roosevelt's approach to the race question in his famed bread-breaking at the White House with Booker T. Washington; his closing of the postoffice at Indianola, Mississippi, after local whites had intimidated the Negro woman who was postmistress; and his appointment of a Negro physician, Dr. William D. Crum, as customs collector at Charleston, South Carolina. Four additional essays deal with such varied topics as the President's fight for an artistic gold coinage; his troubles with a close personal friend who was the wife of his ambassador to Vienna and an incurable devotee of high Papal politics; a labor problem in the Government Printing Office; and a fight about the secret service that eventually led to the creation of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

These are sprightly essays that the non-specialist is able to enjoy, and preferences among them will no doubt vary. The piece on Booker T. Washington's dinner (not lunch) at the White House is both hilarious and tragic-hilarious because it catches politicians, journalists, and, alas, historians in all sorts of verbal shenanigans; and tragic because the whole episode is rooted in and reflects the white racism that boiled to an all-time high during the period. None of the racial essays deal with the later period when politics helped push Roosevelt in other and perhaps less "liberal" directions. Yet Gatewood shrewdly concludes that Theodore Roosevelt sought for the blacks what he termed decent treatment rather than full citizenship; that the President's quarrel with rabidly racist white Southerners, such as Senators Tillman and Vardaman, was more about what he regarded as their barbaric bad manners than their concept of Anglo-Saxon supremacy; and that the fact that some Negro Americans came for a while to regard him as a "worthy successor to the Great Emancipator" is more of a commentary on the "desperate nature of their plight in the Progressive Era than on the magnitude of his cautious efforts to extend the

Square Deal to black people.”

For sheer Rooseveltian fun and games, perhaps the essay about the gold coins takes the prize. He believed that art enhanced the “beauty of living and therefore the joy of life” and that what might be called his obligations as “Chief Pulpiteer” to the great public included artistic as well as more mundane matters. Roosevelt, therefore, commissioned his favorite sculptor, Augustus Saint-Gaudens, to design some new gold coins. Subsequently, Liberty’s head acquired an Indian feather head-dress (T. R.’s suggestion), and the traditional motto about trusting in God came off for aesthetic reasons (Saint-Gaudens’s suggestion). The ensuing brouhaha must surely rank as one of the most entertaining episodes in the era when Theodore Roosevelt more than compensated for the lack of radio and television.

College of William and May

ROBERT F. DURDEN,

The Lure of the Land: A Social History of the Public Lands from the Articles of Confederation to the New Deal. By Everett Dick. (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1970. xii, 413 pp. Preface, illustrations, bibliography, index. \$9.50.)

For forty years, ever since Everett Dick earned his doctorate from Wisconsin, historians have come to regard his work as scholarly and well-written. His major efforts, *The Sod House Frontier* (1937), *Vanguards of the Frontier* (1941), and *The Dixie Frontier* (1948) have delighted students of American pioneer movement and stimulated thoughtful reflections on frontier history. *The Lure of the Land* is everything you would expect from a seasoned scholar.

A long line of studies of land policy reaches back through such familiar names as Harold Dunham, Paul Gates, Roy M. Robbins, Carl Coke Rister, Payson J. Treat, and Benjamin Hibbard, only to name a few. What does Dick offer that warrants fresh consideration? As he states it himself, after a lifetime of “writing about the everyday life of the frontiersman . . . I became convinced that land, before it was separated from the United States government and during the process of its actual

change in ownership from the nation to the individual, was the most important single social factor in frontier history." The book attempts to tell the story of exactly how the land passed from public ownership to private hands.

Lure of the Lund focuses on people, rather than on legislative history. All the familiar landmarks are observed, the enactment of the original land laws and all the changes in that system right up to the end of the era of public land and the close of the frontier, which Dick dates in 1935 when Franklin D. Roosevelt withdrew the remaining public land from entry.

The American system of land distribution did not work the way it was supposed to. Whatever the changes in our land laws, the frontiersman rarely abided by them. His narrative is one of people either breaking the law or simply ignoring it until it conformed to the pioneer's wishes. Yet, a continent was occupied and civilized by these "lawless" people. Dick explains the paradox this way: "Long before Abraham Lincoln's famous statement, that the United States was a house divided against itself, the nation had been divided, with East and West forming the two sections." The East, conservative in its thinking, wanted a slow, orderly, pay-as-you-go land policy, while the more radical West saw land as an inexhaustable resource to be used without delay or caution. Fortunately, Dick concludes the sections were fluid. On land policy, for example, Ohio in the early nineteenth century was radical and western, but by mid-century, with the frontier having moved on, she adopted a conservative and eastern outlook. This fluidity and the ability to accommodate each other, avoided the kind of sectional conflict that split the Union and led to a Civil War between the North and South.

In light of current concerns for our environment, one of Dick's conclusions warrants special notice. His research has led him to conclude that "Although the national government is not perfect, it has been freer from corrupt rings than have local and state governments; and history indicates that the national government should guide in the use and enjoyment of the remaining remnant of our national resources."

The Lure of the Land is an excellent summary of the fraud and corruption in which "the land laws were evaded or used to further the interest of the frontiersmen." This is the theme for 364 pages. At this point Dick shys away from the implication

of his study and impales himself on a platitude: "But what per cent of the land was subject to these practices is difficult to determine. It is axiomatic that in a well-regulated community the violation of a law is newsworthy. The law-abiding man . . . never gets his name in the newspaper." This may be true, but his book suggests a different conclusion. Indeed, one wonders why the title wasn't *The Lust for Land*.

The bibliography is good, although a preponderance of the material cited is dated prior to 1950. The index is excellent and the format pleasing. The last chapter is a brilliant summary of American land history, and it alone is worth the price of the book.

State College of Arkansas

WADDY WILLIAM MOORE

Technology and Humanism: Some Exploratory Essays for Our Times. By William G. Carleton. (Nashville: Vanderbilt University Press, 1970. xiv, 300 pp. Foreword, introduction, index. \$12.50.)

The author of this book is personally known by thousands of Floridians and by scores of members of the Florida Historical Society. William G. Carleton has been associated with Florida since the late 1920s, first as a law student and then as professor at the University of Florida. In his earlier years he was best known as an orator of style and dynamism, and he achieved note as an energetic campaigner for Al Smith in 1928. Though active as a speaker in the 1930s in the Roosevelt campaigns, the decade saw him turn his energies into college teaching. A generation of Florida graduates remember the intellectual excitement of a classroom presided over by "Wild Bill."

Early in the 1940s he increasingly turned to writing, and it is in the period since 1947 that he has made his most lasting contributions. This volume is a compendium of the best of those writings, each introduced by an introspective, critical comment by the author. There are eighteen essays divided into three groups: "World Politics," "American Politics," and "Changing Cultural Ethos and the Technocratic Society." They combine the

insights of the incisive journalist and the perspectives of a broadly-educated academician.

In the first group, Carleton shows an early appreciation of the lack of solidarity in the Communist world and of the disruptive impact nationalism would have upon it. He shows, too, a perception of the nationalistic barriers to World Federalism and of the limitations nationalism would place upon the development of the United Nations. In the same vein of resurgent nationalism, one essay deals with McCarthyism as a blindness which distorted the American mind into believing in a mythical or highly exaggerated Communist monolith. To undermine another Communist myth, one essay views the former colonial regions and finds little to support the notion that all are trending toward Communism. The more pervasive influence in most is that of the former European ruling powers, preserving in the new nations a primarily western orientation. Perhaps, however, the major theme of the international essays is that the great world political crises of this century are mostly behind us, that big wars will be avoided, that in their mutual interest in stabilizing the balance of power, the United States and Russia may create a too rigidified status quo.

The second section of essays, dealing with American politics, emphasizes themes of centralization, the nature of the presidency, and the anachronism and irrelevance of American conservatism. Professor Carleton's view of centralization is that its general impact in America has been to broaden both democracy and liberty—a logically convincing argument that emphasizes the narrowness and unresponsiveness of state and local governments and the objectiveness and liberating activities of the federal government. Reaching into history he points out that, "Most tyrannies in history, and some of the most onerous, have been local." In regard to the presidency, he associates strong presidents with growing democracy and sees that branch of government as being more representative of national majorities than has been the legislative branch of government. One article, on Woodrow Wilson, depicts him as a foremost exponent of the strong twentieth century presidency and takes issue with Wilson's latter-day academic critics. Another essay, on John F. Kennedy, respects his status as a romantic folk hero and a symbol of the values of his time—a paradoxically attractive figure in our

prosaic, technocratic age—but points up the sparseness of his achievements in statesmanship.

For American conservatism he has little respect. The trouble with American “conservatives,” he says, is that they are too infused with technocratic and economic values and too lacking in humanist values. The few genuine conservatives (examples cited are Walter Lippman and Robert A. Nisbet) are deeply rooted in America’s liberal tradition, have a genuine lament for the past, and are keenly conscious of “how difficult it will be to preserve traditional values in our technocratic age.”

In many ways, the last section of this book is the most fascinating—here Carleton copes with the “feel” of twentieth century American society and reveals himself as a “true” conservative in the traditional sense. Here he finds a non-technocratic sense of identification with Hawthorne’s more romantic, bucolic, less specialized and rationalistic, more playful nineteenth century Here, too, he laments the passing of nineteenth century gregarious and merry cultural pluralism in favor of exclusive, confined, antiseptic urban America, and he taxes Americans for their lack of humanism and the conformist tendencies their new society increasingly generates. Finally, he turns to the anti-technocratic trends, to the young dissidents who, vaguely feeling the shortcomings of the materialist technological society which nurtures them, seek to remake it. Going against the grain of America’s soulless technocracy, they seek the leavening humanism of an earlier western European tradition.

For a book of essays, there is remarkable unity in this volume. The essays logically blend into each other, and their selection testifies to the sure sense of unity and purpose that characterizes this author’s other writings. Reading these essays is an exciting experience.

University of Florida

HERBERT J. DOHERTY, JR