

Florida Historical Quarterly

Volume 50
Number 3 *Florida Historical Quarterly*, Vol 50,
Number 3

Article 11

1971

Book Notes

Florida Historical Society
membership@myfloridahistory.org



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

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

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

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

Recommended Citation

Society, Florida Historical (1971) "Book Notes," *Florida Historical Quarterly*: Vol. 50: No. 3, Article 11.
Available at: <https://stars.library.ucf.edu/fhq/vol50/iss3/11>

BOOK NOTES

Ghost Towns of Florida, by James R. Warnke, describes five communities— Magnolia, Port Leon, New Troy, Indian Key and Pinelevel— which once were flourishing towns with buildings and people, but which have died with hardly a trace to show where they once stood. In the chapter, “Others That Have Been Forgotten,” the author describes other deserted or partly deserted towns and villages like Elliot Key, Snake Bight, Cayo Pelau, Old Venus, Punta Rassa, Kismet, and Sam Jones Old Town. Some were started by land development companies, other were railroad junctions or stops along the road for travelers, and some developed in the nineteenth century as adjuncts of army forts and military encampments. Mr. Warnke’s book sells for \$2.50, and it may be ordered by writing Box 1408, Boynton Beach, Florida 33435.

Of importance to Florida historians are two reprint volumes. *Diplomacy and the Borderlands: The Adams-Onís Treaty of 1819*, by Philip C. Brooks, former director of the Harry Truman Library in Independence, was published in 1939. It remains one of the definitive studies of the diplomatic negotiations which resulted in the transfer of the Florida territory to the United States. This reprint volume includes all of the original illustrations including the 1818 Melish map. Published by Octagon Books, New York 10003, it sells for \$9.00.

A History of the Freedman’s Bureau, by George R. Bentley, was prepared as a doctoral dissertation at the University of Wisconsin. It received the prestigious Beveridge Prize and was published in 1955. The history of the Florida Freedman’s Bureau is extensively developed in this study. It sells for \$9.50 from Octagon Books.

History of Union County, Florida, 1921-1971, by Marjorie Driggers, was published in connection with the county’s fiftieth

anniversary which was celebrated in October 1971. The booklet sets down some of the interesting details of early pioneers and the beginnings of the county. Lake Butler, the county seat, was established in 1859 in what was then called New River County. Mrs. Driggers has located many of the early sites in Lake Butler and in the county, and she points out that some of the nineteenth-century buildings remain. The booklet may be ordered from Mrs. Driggers, Lake Butler 32054; the price is \$1.00.

Snowy, The Story of an Egret is by Griffing Bancroft, the Florida nature guide and free lance writer. This novel grew out of his working with photographers and bird banders and while conducting bird tours on Sanibel and Captiva Islands. *Snowy* is the story of a young male egret who survives hurricane and fire only to meet bulldozers, factories, housing developments, and pollution, all the products of humans. The illustrations are by Mel Hunter. Published by the McCall Publishing Company, the book sells for \$4.95.

Heroes of the American Indian, by Sol Stember, is designed for the young reader, and it attempts, according to the author, "to set the historical record straight, eliminating the distortions of television and Hollywood westerns." There are errors in the book. For instance, Florida Territorial Governor Richard Keith Call is called General Robert Call. The picture on page 66 is incorrectly labeled "Seminole Indian warrior, 16th century." The chapter, "The Swamp Fighters," is the account of the Second Seminole War with emphasis on the role played by Osceola during that conflict. The book, published by Fleet Press Corporation, New York 10010, sells for \$5.00.

Indian Peace Medals in American History, by Francis Paul Prucha, describes the silver medals which the United States government presented to important chiefs and warriors. Not only do they reflect American relations with the Indians, but they are important in the history of American art, since many were designed by the best artists of the day. Struck with the portraits of the Presidents, they comprise a gallery of early American chief

executives. The southern Indians were among the recipients of these medals. When Florida Territorial Governor William P. DuVal wanted to confer the title of "governor" on John Hicks, a Seminole chief, he was informed by Thomas L. McKenney, head of the Indian Office: "The Title of Governor is unusual, and the Secretary declines conferring it on Hicks. He will be distinguished by a Great Medal, and acknowledged the Chief of his people." Governor DuVal later requested medals for five Apalachicola chiefs whose "conduct justly entitles them to the distinction," and the medals were sent from the Indian Office with the direction that they be "given to them as tokens of the friendship of the Great Father, and accompanied by such remarks in reference to the obligation which [the] mark of distinction confers upon them, to be firm in their friendship and sober and upright in their conduct toward the Government and Citizens of the United States." In April 1827, DuVal again requested medals for three Indian Chiefs who had assisted in apprehending a group of Indian murderers. *Indian Peace Medals* is published by the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, and it sells for \$15.00.

The Environmental Destruction of South Florida, edited by William Ross McCluney, was written with a two-fold purpose. First, it hopes to alert the public to the growing danger of massive environmental destruction in south Florida. Second, to provide basic factual information about the south Florida environment and the way it is being destroyed. It is concerned with the future of Florida's salt and fresh water resources, the Everglades and the threats to it from fire, drought, and the proposed jetport, the population explosion in Dade County and south Florida, the increasing dependence on the automobile in that area, skyrocketing land values, and the general threat of air and water pollution. Earle R. Rich, Polly Redford, Lester C. Pancoast, Arthur R. Marshall, Juanita Greene, F. C. Craighead, and Al Volker are some of the Florida writers represented in this volume. It was published by the University of Miami Press, Coral Gables, and it sells for \$1.95.

North American Discovery: Circa 1000-1612, edited by David B. Quinn, is in the series *Documentary History of the United*

States, edited by Richard B. Morris. The documents reveal the range and variety of European contacts with North America before the Spanish, English, and French colonial system became deeply rooted. There is much Florida material in this volume, including the activities of de León, de Narváez, Luis Cancer, and De Luna. The De Soto explorations, Ribault's expedition, Fort Caroline, St. Augustine, and a view of Florida and its surroundings in 1612 are Florida topics which are covered. A Harper & Row publication, the books sells for \$3.95.

Once A Slave: The Slave's View of Slavery, by Stanley Feldstein, is based upon autobiographical and semi-autobiographical accounts of slaves, most of which are unpublished. Many of these narratives contain obvious weaknesses since the majority were dictated by illiterate slaves and were written down by other persons, most of whom opposed the institution and who were gathering the material for use as antislavery propaganda. Other narratives, especially those transcribed by members of the WFA Federal Writers' Project during the 1930s, were dictated or written by exslaves, the majority of whom had experienced slavery only as young children, and as a consequence their memories were blurred because of the time that had elapsed. The "Florida Narratives" fall into this latter category. Nevertheless, a strong case may also be made for the validity of the information which Mr. Feldstein includes in his book. Almost every aspect of the institution is touched upon: life on the plantation, the role of the slave owner, types of slaves, relationship of slaves to others, slave morality, crime, and superstition, and the slave's own interpretation of the institution. The book was published by William Morrow and Company, New York, and it sells for \$3.50.

Early American Tornadoes, 1568-1870, by David M. Ludlum, is in the *History of American Weather* series published by the American Meteorological Society. The only Florida incident reported occurred on June 27, 1845, when a tornado, seven to ten miles long, cut a path half a mile wide in Jacksonville. Neighboring Georgia was not so lucky over the years. Tornadoes in 1804, 1810, and 1854 resulted in many lives lost and heavy property damage. The greatest southern storm of the pre-Civil

War period occurred when a massive tornado smashed through the river port of Natchez Landing and the business and residential city on the nearby bluff, May 7, 1840. More than 300 people died and the damages were estimated at more than \$1,000,000. A similar disaster a few weeks earlier in Mobile resulted in several people losing their lives and heavy property damage including part of the nunnery on Spring Hill which was blown down. This volume is available from the American Meteorological Society, Boston, Massachusetts 02108.

Naval Documents of the American Revolution, Volume 5, covers the American theatre for the period May 9, 1776-July 31, 1776. William Dell Clark, editor of the earlier volumes in this series, died while Volume 5 was in preparation and William James Morgan is the editor of this collection. Several letters and documents relating to East and West Florida are included. George Gauld writing to Vice Admiral Clark Gayton, from Pensacola, May 20, 1776, urges caution along the Florida "kays," because "the Americans, and their Privateers are sufficiently acquainted with the kays to annoy us if they think proper." A petition of refugees from South Carolina and Georgia to Governor Patrick Tonyn of East Florida, June 20, 1776, is another pertinent Florida document. The book is sold by the United States Government Printing Office, Washington, and the price is \$13.25.

Civil War Naval Chronology, 1861-1865 was compiled by the Naval History Division, U.S. Navy Department, for the nationwide observances of the Civil War Centennial. It was made available between 1961 and 1965 in five paperback parts, each covering one year of the conflict. These were followed in 1966 by Part VI containing a cumulative index, several eye-witness accounts, naval music, and other articles of interest. All of this material has been collected, together into a single volume. It includes a "1861-1865 Calendar." There are many Florida references scattered throughout this publication. It is available from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, and the price is \$9.75.

Fifty Eight Lonely Men, by J. W. Peltason, is the history of the southern federal judges and the school desegregation prob-

lems of the 1950s which they were coping with. The successful efforts by Virgil Hawkins to integrate the University of Florida are among the incidents covered in the book. Other Florida cases are discussed. Published originally in 1961, the book has been updated with an epilogue, and a bibliographical essay has been added. It is printed by the University of Illinois Press, Urbana 61801, and it sells for \$2.95.

The American South, by Monroe Lee Billington, is a relatively short history (465 pages including bibliography and index) of the South, beginning with the colonial period, or the "pre-South" South, as the author describes it. It continues up to 1970. At least half of the book deals with the post-Reconstruction period. Published by Charles Scribner's Sons, it sells for \$4.95.

The Debate Over Slavery, edited by Ann J. Lane, is an examination of the scholarly controversy generated by Stanley M. Elkins's book, *Slavery: A Problem In American Institutional and Intellectual Life*, published in 1959. There have been many critics of Elkins's book, his thesis, and his philosophy. This paperback examines and evaluates the criticism. Published by University of Illinois Press, the price is \$2.95.

Epidemics In Colonial America, by John Duffy, was published in 1953, and it has now been reprinted as a paperback. Published by Louisiana State University Press, Baton Rouge, it sells for \$3.25.

Bible In Pocket, Gun In Hand, by Ross Phares, is the story of religion on the western frontier. There are chapters on the styles of preaching and praying, the phenomena of revivalism, and the church as a disciplinary force. The chapter, "The Hard Lot of Saddlebag Preachers," recalls similar experiences of nineteenth-century Florida circuit riders. Published by the University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln, the book sells for \$1.95.