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Book Reviews

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BOOK REVIEWS

No Further Retreat: The Fight to Save Florida. By Raymond F. Dasmann. (New York: MacMillan Co., 1971. xii, 244 pp. Foreword, acknowledgements, introduction, maps, illustrations, references, index. \$6.95.)

The idea of this book originated in 1967 to provide a useful tool for those working to save the Florida environment. Raymond Dasmann is an established worker and writer in the conservation field with a half dozen major works to his credit. The Conservation Foundation sent him to Florida in 1968 for two months to write, but he found himself caught up in the action. He discovered conservationists so busy solving problems that they had too little time to study them. Now that the book has finally appeared it is well worth waiting for. The historical sketch contains some errors, but is too brief to do any major damage or to detract from the book's usefulness. The book does provide a reasoned and reasonable assessment of conservation problems in Florida with guidelines to solutions, but there is no blueprint; it is a book to read and ponder.

The emphasis is upon South Florida; elsewhere only the cross-state barge canal receives full treatment. Dasmann describes South Florida as tropical, and North Florida as subtropical. Because of overlapping climatic zones there is an amazing variety of plant and animal life, particularly in the south. Biologically the Florida Keys are much more tropical and West Indian than any other part of the state. One third of the tropical trees in Florida grow (one is tempted now to write "grew") only on the keys and the rest mostly south of a line from Miami to Marco Island. The same in somewhat different fractions may be said of the animal life; note the last stand of the key deer and the crocodile. This accounts for the focus of attention on the region. There have been more conservation victories there than elsewhere in the state. Monroe County in which most of it lies, not notable for support of progressive ideas, has seen much of its land taken over by state and federal government for conservation purposes.

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Florida has all of the environmental problems that beset the technologically-advanced nations of the world, though the weather saves it from the worst features of air pollution. More importantly, Florida also has "the possible destruction of all that is priceless and rare, unique and irreplaceable, in an environment of unparalleled value." Here the conflict between the technological society and the irreplaceable values of the natural landscape is most severe.

Many environmentalists, the author points out, preach a sermon of impending doom. He feels that if the damage were irreparable there would be no point in calling for action to save the environment. Nature has great power to make recovery and adjustments if given a chance. Floridians still have time to act, but must do it now. They must grow more conscious of the irreplaceables. We cannot now identify them; nor can we establish their values. In the matter of exotics, we should establish which are desirable and exclude others. He warns that conservation groups are so accustomed to fighting against enemies that they fall to quarreling among themselves when asked to propose programs. Some of them also tend to retire from the field when their immediate objectives are won. He points out that we cannot prevent everything; somewhere there must be compromise. The United States Army Corps of Engineers, for example, should not be abolished, but put to work at more socially desirable projects. It may be added that the engineers have proved more flexible in their response to changing moods and interests than have some of the other more bureaucratic federal agencies.

Dasmann rules out socialization of the lands. The experience with our government at all levels and that of foreign governments wholly responsible for the protection of the environment is not encouraging. The only sensible choice, he says, is to make the system we have work better. The National Council on Environmental Quality, if funded, staffed, and given the authority to direct and coordinate all activity, might accomplish it. As it is, "nobody is in charge."

He sees the control of population unnecessary, not because there are too many people, but because of the relation of population to the control of the other two factors in the problem of environmental protection, technology and land

use, the last the area in which the most complete chaos exists. Needless to add, this assumes a degree of private and public planning and controls for which we are scarcely ready.

There have been, he points out, enough successes in Florida to point the way. Stopping construction of the jetport on the Dade-Collier County site, he rates high. More meaningful, perhaps is the joining of forces to establish Rookery Bay in Collier County as a conservation area. Collier County is also decried as one of the worst contrasts, for there is unregulated land development and land use which threatens even the good achieved at Rookery Bay. The same might be said of the Corkscrew Cypress Sanctuary in the same county. Another example that gets a nod of approval is Jupiter Island, protected by private owners but less available for public use. His criticism of the road to Flamingo and the public camping grounds in the Everglades National Park serves well to point up the conflict between public use and environmental protection in such an area. This ranges him on the side of those who place preservation of the natural wild state above recreational use.

Coral Gables, Florida

Charlton W. Tebeau

On Preserving Tropical Florida. By John C. Gifford. Compiled by Elizabeth Ogren Rothra. (Coral Gables: University of Miami Press, 1972. xiv, 222 pp. Preface, acknowledgements, illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$7.95.)

The title of this book is misleading. It is not, as one would expect, a book on environmental protection, nor a history of past conservation battles. It is, rather, a brief biography and introduction to the writings of John C. Gifford (1870-1949), the pioneer Miami forester, horticulturist, author, builder, banker, conservationist, civic leader, university professor, and lecturer who for many years was known as "South Florida's greatest interpreter."

Elizabeth Ogren Rothra, author of the sixty-seven page biography and editor of this volume, writes so appealingly about Dr. Gifford that she makes her readers wish they had

known him. What a fascinating friend he must have been! For Gifford was a naturalist in the broadest, best sense of the term. As a forester and plant scientist, he knew that in the long run one can only work with nature, not against her. As a biologist and conservationist, he deplored the senseless imposition of northern methods of agriculture, building, and land-use in a tropical environment. In his books, lectures, and radio talks he urged South Floridians to adopt a tropical life-style in harmony with their surroundings, a life-style which he himself enjoyed to the fullest.

His groves and gardens were full of native plants chosen to take every advantage of local soils and weather; they gave good yields with minimum maintenance. His houses were designed to catch the wind; built of local woods and rock, shaded by native trees and shrubs, they seemed to grow out of the ground. His subdivisions (he was involved in the land boom of the 1920s) had winding streets that followed the contours of the land and were named after Bahama Islands and Indian chiefs to emphasize Miami's heritage.

Long before Everglades Park was established, Gifford foresaw that much of the Glades, the keys, and offshore reefs would be protected by public ownership, but many other ideas of his were hopelessly out of step with the times. In an era when millions of Americans were abandoning small unprofitable farms and moving to the cities, Gifford advocated a return to the subsistence family farm (five acres, a kitchen garden, chickens, and pigs) as a solution to the nation's social and economic ills. He wanted to "reclaim" the Everglades; and though wise enough to see that dikes and canals might do more harm than good, he proposed to dry out the Glades by covering them with forests of exotic trees, especially the *Melaleuca*—a tree he had imported from Australia. Alas, like the water hyacinth, *melaleuca* succeeded only too well in the Everglades. Ecologists are now frantically trying to find ways of getting rid of it. Ironically, John Gifford's most lasting legacy to the landscape he loved may turn out to be one of its worst pests.

Anyone interested in South Florida plants, ecology, and natural history will enjoy this book. Book buffs will appreciate its attractive design, layout, typography, and illustrations.

Coconut Grove, Florida

Polly Redford

St. Petersburg and Its People. By Walter Fuller. (St. Petersburg: Great Outdoors Publishing Co., 1972. v, 389 pp. Foreword, acknowledgements, illustrations. \$14.95.)

While a few limited efforts have been made to record the history of this important Florida city, this volume is by far the most comprehensive and ambitious.

The beginnings of St. Petersburg, as we know it today, date from what Mr. Fuller calls the "baby boom" immediately preceding World War I, resumed in full fury when the war was over. By the time the bubble burst in 1925, the essential cast and framework of modern St. Petersburg had been formed. These are the important years, the beginning years, where the author is at his best. A real estate promoter himself during this period, he knew practically all of the leading personalities of the area, and he was often directly involved in many of the events that took place. While not always perfectly objective, he does furnish much keen and penetrating insight into the motivations and follies of what was then a new breed of real estate salesmen. In fact, it is not difficult to discern throughout his work that he sincerely believes in St. Petersburg, as the ideal city in the ideal place, and he is still selling and promoting it. This, perhaps, is the very spirit of these fascinating times.

With a twinkle in his eye and the air of a promoter, Walter Fuller traces the St. Petersburg area back from the primitive inhabitants—the "St. Petersburg Indians." He claims for St. Petersburg the landing place of DeSoto and gives the lot and block number for the 1526 camp of Pánfilo de Narváez on Boca Ciega Bay. The story thins out for some 250 years during which the area was historically blank, or nearly so, despite Fuller's strong feelings of a possible visit by Governor James Moore of South Carolina in the very early 1700s, another claim for St. Petersburg. An interesting recount of the few early settlers in the area, notable hurricanes, and the struggle for bare existence, precludes the extension of the railroad to St. Petersburg in 1888 when the story begins in earnest.

While Mr. Fuller's style is unsophisticated and down to earth, his thesis carries through. A liberal lacing of interesting photographs makes up for numerous and sometimes glaring errors and assumptions which do not, however, detract from

the main theme of his book. The lack of an index is a drawback, however, and some repetition could have been avoided.

The lack of good and comprehensive local histories is a serious gap in publications on Florida history. While the lapse of time may have been necessary for historical perspective in most instances, hopefully the time has now come when the gap can and should be closed. This volume is a significant and welcome step in this direction.

Clearwater, Florida

Milton D. Jones

History of Santa Rosa County: A King's Country. By M. Luther King. (Mrs. John H. Graham, Jr., 1336 Highfield Drive, Clearwater, Florida 33516, 1972. xv, 140 pp. Foreword, preface, illustrations, map, index. \$6.95.)

A self-made teacher and educator, M. (for Martin) Luther King passed Florida's Uniform State Teachers' examination to earn a certificate in 1927 at the age of twenty-eight. He taught or served as a school principal for thirty-eight years. He passed an equivalency examination to qualify for entry at Florida State College for Women for the summer session of 1931; the college then only accepted male students for special summer courses. Mr. King returned each summer until 1947, when his dogged persistence paid off with a bachelor's degree, the first to be awarded a male graduate of the newly-designated Florida State University. He continued his studies each summer until 1953, when he received a degree in school administration and supervision. His college career, in summer sessions only, had lasted twenty-two years.

Throughout his lifetime, Mr. King researched and compiled information about the communities in which he lived. He enjoyed collecting and evaluating the area's history, legends, and folklore, seeming to seek a great depth of background information. His notes became outlines for class discussions. These outlines, in the natural course of events, became organized much as chapters are to make a book.

Several of Mr. King's former students (including this writer) urged him from time to time to preserve his outlines as a history of Santa Rosa County. He indicated an interest in such a project, but first he wanted to complete the work to include in-depth

information about all communities in the county. He had worked on this aspect of the proposed book for some time during his last busy years. Following his death in 1965, however, members of his family were unable to find some of the outlines. His daughter, Mrs. Martha King Graham, and other members of her family, decided in 1971 to proceed with publication. In an effort to preserve as much as possible of her father's own language, Mrs. Graham edited the material sparingly. It was compiled for a classroom audience, rather than a reading audience. The result, while not a complete history of the county, is a near-priceless collection of local history, genealogy, legend, and folklore that is nowhere else available.

One of the volume's greatest influences may be in what it is not, rather than what it is. It is neither complete nor comprehensive as a history of the county, being instead the posthumous publication of an incompleated effort. It should challenge some reader, now that M. Luther King's legacy has pointed the way, to complete the work that the self-made Santa Rosa teacher and historian started. It should equally inspire prospective historians in other communities to follow his example.

Chipley, Florida

E. W. Carswell

James Blair of Virginia. By Parke Rouse, Jr. (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1971, xiii, 336 pp. Acknowledgments, illustrations, appendixes, notes, bibliography, index. \$10.00.)

Handsomely produced, thoroughly researched, and lucidly written, this volume is an altogether excellent account of the public life of James Blair, characterized by the author as "one of the most influential colonists in America" during the half century following the Glorious Revolution. Born in Scotland in 1655 and educated at Marischal College, Aberdeen, and the University of Edinburgh, Blair was ordained in the Church of Scotland. His refusal to sign the test oath of 1681 excluded him from further clerical employment in Scotland and led to his migration to London, where he enjoyed the patronage of Henry Compton, Bishop of London, and (in 1685) secured appointment as missionary to Henrico Parish, Virginia.

During the next fifty-eight years, Blair amassed an estate of

£10,000, an impressive sum for the time and place, and played a major role in the religious, political, and cultural life of Virginia. His contribution to the religious life of Virginia was made as a minister of three successive parishes and, beginning in 1689, as commissary for the Bishop of London. Through his marriage to Sarah Harrison, he allied himself with some of the most powerful families in Virginia, and his appointment as a member of the Council in 1694 provided him with both an outlet for "an obsessive will to rule" and a base from which he exerted a profound influence upon Virginia politics; his close contacts with the clerical and colonial establishments in England provided him with the necessary muscle to force the removal of three royal governors: Sir Edmund Andros, Francis Nicholson, and Alexander Spotswood. But his most enduring achievement was the founding and nurturance of the College of William and Mary, of which he was the first president.

The absence of personal papers has made it impossible for the author to explore Blair's private world satisfactorily, and the volume would have gained a wider scholarly audience had the author explored more systematically and explicitly those central themes of early American development to which Blair's life speaks so eloquently: among others, the fear of creolian degeneracy and moral decay among emergent colonial elites, the volatile and highly personal character of early American political life, and the pragmatic quality of colonial Virginia Anglicanism. As a study of Blair's public role, however, the volume could scarcely have been any better.

The Johns Hopkins University

Jack P. Greene

The Letterbook of Eliza Lucas Pinckney, 1739-1762. Edited by Elise Pinckney. Editorial assistance by Marvin Zahniser. Introduction by Walter M. Whitehill. (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1972. xxix, 195 pp. Introduction, biographical sketch, preface, illustrations, index. \$9.95.)

As a person "identified with the development of indigo as a staple of colonial South Carolina" Eliza Lucas Pinckney of Charleston merited a sketch in the *Dictionary of American Biography* equal to that of her distinguished sons, Charles Cotes-

worth Pinckney and Thomas Pinckney. Selections of her writing were published as early as 1850 in the Wormsloe *Quarto*, and in 1896 her biography was written by her great-granddaughter, Mrs. St. Julian Ravenal, who drew extensively upon her letters. While quotations from her lively letters appear in many places, no text of them is currently available. The Wormsloe *Quarto* was printed in the ultralimited edition of nineteen copies, while Mrs. Ravenal's biography is now long out of print. This documentary publication of Mrs. Pinckney's letterbook by its present owner, the South Carolina Historical Society, adds a new and colorful dimension to our knowledge of an energetic, intelligent, and imaginative woman. It also makes available to present-day readers a group of letters so delightful that they will appeal not only to historians but to the general reader.

Born in the West Indies, Eliza was educated in England and arrived in South Carolina in 1738 when her father, a colonel in the British army brought his wife and daughter to Wappoo, a plantation near Charleston. At the age of sixteen, upon her father's return to Antigua, she was left in charge of three plantations. Her father sent her a variety of West Indian seeds for experiment, and 1741 she manufactured the blue dye-cakes from the indigo plant, which until that time had been a failure in South Carolina. In the third season the seed ripened, and the indigo from Wappoo proved that South Carolina lands could produce a grade that could sell in a competitive market. Indigo sold in England received a substantial bounty.

In 1744 Eliza married Charles Pinckney, a prominent lawyer, and moved to Belmont, a nearby plantation, where she directed experiments with flax and hemp and also revived silk culture. In 1753, her husband having been appointed colonial agent for South Carolina, she and her sons and daughter, Harriett, accompanied him to London. During her first summer in England she and her family traveled about 700 miles by land. She said "it is a pleasant but expensive way of spending time." She loved England and the English people, but she was annoyed by "the perpetual card playing" of Londoners.

Upon their return to Charleston five years later Charles Pinckney contracted malaria and died soon afterwards. The marriage had been an unusually happy one, and Eliza was almost overcome with grief. In scores of letters she referred to the loss

of "my dear, dear Mr. Pinckney, the best of men, of husbands, and of fathers." But once again she took up the routine of plantation duties. After the Revolution she lived with her widowed daughter until her death in 1793.

The letters are divided into three parts: "Early Letters from Carolina: 1739-1746," "Letters from England: 1753-1757," and "Letters from Carolina: 1758-1762." Though they record only a part of a remarkable life, for the periods they cover they are more lively than any consecutive biography.

Elise Pinckney is a direct descendant of Eliza Lucas Pinckney. Marvin H. Zahniser is associate professor of history at Ohio State University and author of *Charles Cotesworth Pinckney: Founding Father*. The volume is well edited and has approximately 200 footnotes, which add much to its readability. The index is adequate and lists all of the people who received letters from Mrs. Pinckney.

*University of North Carolina
at Chapel Hill*

Hugh Lefler

The Anatomy of the Confederate Congress. By Thomas B. Alexander and Richard E. Beringer. (Nashville: Vanderbilt University Press, 1972. xi, 435 pp. Preface, research design, appendices, tables, maps, bibliographical comment, index. \$10.00.)

In this valuable book, Professors Alexander and Beringer have first used the 1860 manuscript census and other sources to compile biographical data on some 267 members of the Confederate Congress. This information, which is accessible in an appendix, suggests that these congressmen were often similar in background to members of the ruling elite examined in Ralph Wooster's recent study of state governments in the antebellum lower South. After compiling this material, the authors used a computer to examine votes cast in 1,490 (of a total of approximately 1,900) roll-call divisions in the Confederate Congress. Voting patterns on these selected votes were then related systematically to the member characteristics of individual congressmen.

In accumulating evidence concerning the existence of such measurable relationships through use of "performance scores"

and "scalograms," the authors generally found little evidence of traditional party discipline during the early years of congressional activity. This generalization, nonetheless, needed some modification for the period in which the members of the Provisional Congress acted as a constitutional convention. At that time, the distinctive southern unity, which had appeared during the sectional struggles of the 1850s, was challenged by the emergence of basic constitutional questions. Faced with this reality, congressmen temporarily conducted their business with something resembling traditional partisan behavior of the type which had been absent in the South since 1848.

Conflict of this nature did not again become significant until small-farmer discontent reconstituted the Confederate Congress in the 1863 elections. Following these elections, grim military realities "starkly exposed the rapid acceleration after mid-war of distinctions that were associated with identifiable differences among members" (p. 335). These growing differences were not strongly associated with economic distinctions among congressmen. They were instead related closely to the member characteristics of former party affiliation and secession stand. Former Whigs and anti-secessionists were less willing to support measures needed to secure Confederate independence than were former Democrats and secessionists. Even more important, however, was the relationship between a congressman's home district and military operations. Individuals from areas occupied by federal troops endorsed measures which might help to restore Confederate control over their constituencies. In contrast, congressmen from within the ever-shrinking Confederate boundaries became increasingly convinced of the futility of such efforts.

Professors Alexander and Beringer have gathered a truly impressive amount of material in this book, and they have explained clearly both their findings and their methodology. We are in their debt for both of these achievements.

Washington State University

Richard L. Hume

Brierfield: Plantation Home of Jefferson Davis. By Frank E. Everett, Jr. (Hattiesburg: University and College Press of Mississippi, 1971. xi, 153 pp. Preface and acknowledgments, selected bibliography, appendix. \$5.95.)

This is the story of the handsome Greek Revival house that Jefferson Davis built for himself and his second wife, Varina Howell, in 1848. It is also the story of the Confederate President's life in association with the house, written with sensitivity and understanding that is the result of careful research and genuine interest both in the house and its occupants. It is probably the most complete study yet presented of this historic southern plantation house that finally disappeared in flames in 1931.

Located on a horseshoe bend on the Mississippi River some fifteen miles south of Vicksburg near Hurricane Island, Brierfield was adjacent to Hurricane plantation, the house of Jefferson Davis's older brother Joseph. The land on which Hurricane and Brierfield were to be built, was acquired by Joseph Davis in 1818, but it was nearly ten years later before the mansion house, Hurricane, was built by him. This was the house to which Jefferson Davis brought his first wife, Sarah Knox Taylor, in 1835, and together they selected a part of Hurricane acreage which they called Brierfield. Unfortunately the young bride died within a few months, and it was not until 1838 that a small residence was first built on the property, ten years before Brierfield house was constructed. Varina Davis later referred to this house as "one of my husband's experiments as an architect."

The author traces the history of these houses, Hurricane, destroyed by Union forces in 1862, and the two Brierfield structures in an interesting and readable way. The book is not, however, primarily an architectural history, but rather the story of a house and its occupants and events that took place in it. The plans, prints, and old photographs collected here are a definite contribution to architectural history, and the appendix "Genealogy of the Davis family" will no doubt be of great interest to genealogists and those concerned with southern history.

The author, Frank Edgar Everett, Jr., a Vicksburg attorney,

has done extensive research in Civil War history and has published books on Mississippi legal history. In this history of a property, while not an in-depth architectural history, he has produced a useful and enjoyable study.

New Orleans, Louisiana

Samuel Wilson, Jr.

Free at Last: The Life of Frederick Douglass. By Arna Bontemps. (New York: Dodd, Mead and Co., 1971. x, 310 pp. Illustrations, note on sources, index. \$7.95.)

Arna Bontemps has confirmed what previous Douglass biographers only suggested— that Frederick Douglass was indeed a giant among men in nineteenth-century America. No other black man commanded the attention, love, and respect, or gained the stature that Douglass did until Washington and DuBois. Bontemps adequately has provided the essential details of Douglass's career, including his escape from slavery, his work as a Garrisonian abolitionist, his powerful platform oratory that raised up both allies and enemies, his political leadership of Negroes, his efforts at recruiting black troops in Massachusetts and Pennsylvania during the Civil War, his appointments as marshal and recorder of deeds in the District of Columbia, and his commissions, official and unofficial, to Haiti and Santo Domingo.

The real contribution of *Free at Last* lies elsewhere. The author has given the reader a different view of Frederick Douglass, a "feel" for the man. The reader can grasp the emotional pangs of the Douglass-William Lloyd Garrison split over abolitionist tactics. He can sense Douglass's interest in, and strange attraction to, the magnetic person of John Brown; the anguish over the latter's failure at Harper's Ferry and subsequent execution; and his own fear of prosecution in the conspiracy. Bontemps has also painted a vivid picture of the young Douglass tasting freedom in Europe and the old Douglass tasting fulfillment at the Egyptian pyramids.

His problems as father and husband are revealed with equal tenderness. Anna Murray, his first wife, was a plain-looking free black who fled north with Douglass in 1838. Uneducated and somewhat disinterested in public affairs, Anna Murray

Douglass was unable to share his trials or his triumphs. And the author gives a brief glimpse into the women who could. In turn, Douglass, who remained faithful, carried on his work, feeling always a little guilty about leaving his wife and children at home. However, he did provide fully for their wants and well-being.

As do all books, *Free at Last* contains a few irritants. In an effort to aim at the general public, Bontemps has omitted all footnote references, despite the quantity of quoted material, and there is no bibliography. The interested scholar is therefore blocked at least temporarily from further pursuit. There are also some misleading impressions. On several occasions Douglass was far more critical of Lincoln and the Republicans than Bontemps has suggested. This was true at the 1864 National Negro Convention at Syracuse, in the "critical year" 1866, and in his dedication address of the freedmen's memorial to Lincoln in Washington, D. C., in 1876. Yet, the book is of value, capturing as it does the life of an extraordinary man.

Daytona Beach Community College

Peter D. Klingman

Roosevelt's Rough Riders. By Virgil Carrington Jones. (New York: Doubleday and Co., 1971. vi, 354 pp. Illustrations, index. \$10.00.)

Mr. Jones has given us an account of the creation, training, transporting, and battle actions of the First U.S. Volunteer Cavalry, better known, of course, as the "Rough Riders," during the Spanish-American War. Mr. Jones is not an historian; he is a writer for NASA who turns out popularized chronicles of romantic military figures such as John Singleton Mosby and, now, Theodore Roosevelt. There are defects to this work from a historian's point of view which are quite serious: there is no bibliography; Jones's notions of the causes of that war are totally innocent; he rarely uses critical or interpretive faculties. The result is that his story displays a remarkable simplicity which prevents it from constituting a significant contribution to the literature on the Spanish-American conflict.

But there are points of interest in it. Readers of this journal will find his description of the scene in Tampa prior to the invasion of Cuba amusing. Jones recreates the atmosphere of

complete confusion which permeated this somnolent port-resort when it had suddenly to receive a large and badly provisioned army. Jones's eye wanders over that boiling stretch of Florida, from the opulent Tampa Bay Hotel to the hastily improvised red light district at Port Tampa, appropriately named "Last Chance Street."

Jones is at his best when dealing with the rigors of fighting in Cuba. He vividly sketches the agonies of that campaign: the wilting heat, disease, hidden foe, and all the hardships which make tropical warfare a particularly hellish experience. He catalogues for us the obvious, that it required a peculiar esprit for the Rough Riders to prevail under such conditions. And here his failure to analyze critically is most exasperating; he never really examines the source of that spirit, and we are given to suppose it lay in the "hard character" of the men themselves.

It is perhaps refreshing not to have Roosevelt subjected to one of those increasingly frequent dissections of his militarism with a view to finding in it the seeds of neurosis, fascism, or whatever. But Mr. Jones seems not to have been very aware of the pre-war role Roosevelt played in the events leading to its outbreak, and there is no fresh scholarship concerning his performance on the island. Jones's sources seem to have included the memoirs of Roosevelt, Wood, Richard Harding Davis, Wheeler, and others. He used the more bellicose newspapers and apparently conducted a few interviews of surviving Rough Riders.

Pensacola Junior College

Thomas J. Gilliam

Attack on Terror: The FBI Against the Ku Klux Klan in Mississippi. By Don Whitehead. (Pleasantville: Funk and Wagnalls, 1971. 321 pp. Index. \$6.95.)

This exciting volume fills a very big gap in our knowledge as to what really happened in the clash between the forces of law and order and those of massive resistance to court-ordered change in Mississippi in the 1960s. It is the story of a war to the death between the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Ku Klux Klan, written by the author of *The FBI Story* who ob-

vously had access to the files of the agency he applauds. The central narrative follows the relentless pursuit of the murderers of civil rights workers Schwerner, Goodman, and Chaney and the torturous trail through the federal courts to conviction by a Mississippi jury.

The Mississippi Ku Klux Klan, grown to such proportions that it terrorized a large part of the state over a period of several years, was brilliantly infiltrated and destroyed by the FBI. Surprisingly enough, Klan leaders turned out to be otherwise successful citizens, not the marginal drop-outs from society who made up the gross membership and did the dirty work of arson, bombing, beating, and murder.

Federal officials were all important in the minimum attainment of justice in Mississippi, but Mr. Whitehead shows beyond a doubt that there was an odd but sustaining federal-state cooperation during and after 1964 that had been almost completely lacking through Ross Barnett's administration. Even Mississippians defending their tainted heritage, it would seem, were eventually appalled at the barbaric indecencies of the Klan. And the federal-state relationship in effect since Washington's presidency remained intact— which is to say the FBI was not turned into a national police force.

This is a first-class work of journalism. The historian will rightfully complain that there is no acknowledgement of sources, no footnotes, and altogether too many conversations reported in quotes which could not possibly be verified. The reviewer who thinks he has something of a vested interest in this period of Mississippi history accepts the general validity of the book. He is now much less in the dark about some of the mysterious goings-on in those troubled years.

University of South Florida

James W. Silver

White Sects and Black Men in the Recent South. By David E. Harrell, Jr. (Nashville: Vanderbilt University Press, 1971. xix, 161 pp. Foreword, preface, bibliographical essay, index. \$6.50.)

The study of religion in America has focused too exclusively on major denominations, a problem which Professor David

Edwin Harrell partially corrects in this excellent book. His study ironically fits within the "new history" which is exploring the underside of American history. It deals with religiously "radical" sects which represent a large but inarticulate mass of lower class white Southerners. Like other submerged minorities these sects lack influential members, their leaders are less articulate and have less access to mass communication.

There are several basic premises in this brief study. First, conservative religion and social reform are not irreconcilable. Harrell also argues persuasively that the theology of a sect is less insignificant than class structure in determining its attitude on specific social issues. His most controversial claim will be his proposal that the "boldest challenges to southern racial taboos have come from the more extreme forms of sect-and-cult religion in the South." As evidence, he notes that the Church of God of Prophecy was the largest racially mixed church in the South from 1945 until the mid-1960s. To stereotype southern sectarianism as racist and reactionary distorts the facts.

The first and last sections of the book (half the text) focus on the sociology of religion. The middle chapters are divided into a study of racist thought within the sects and one which treats moderate and liberal attitudes in the same groups. One criticism grows from the structure of the study. The attempt to abstract a single issue from the social milieu of a religious group always leaves a one-dimensional picture. Emphasis on the single issue of race, for instance, may obscure the fact that a sect which is anti-Negro may also favor a whole plethora of "liberal" social and economic legislation. One may also quibble with Professor Harrell's contention that the leadership of crusading ministers is relatively insignificant in changing racial attitudes and class values. Of course, such criticism hardly detracts from the contribution of this study. One can only hope that Professor Harrell will soon provide a wider critique of the social attitudes of the sectarian South.

Samford University

Wayne Flint

The Not So Solid South: Anthropological Studies in a Regional Subculture. Edited by J. Kenneth Morland. (Athens: Uni-

versity of Georgia Press, 1971. vii, 143 pp. Preface, introduction, map, table, illustration. \$3.75.)

The variety of the cultural fare offered in this small volume of collected papers should be viewed as a sampling of the richly diverse social and cultural tapestry of the southeastern states. It is also evidence of the growing breadth of interest and vigor of anthropology in the South since this is the fourth in the series of proceedings to be published by the newly founded (1966) Southern Anthropological Society.

Twelve separately authored chapters inform us about black peasants and saints, miners and mill workers, hippies, descendants of Irish tinkers, artisans, the mentally ill, and the bereaved and the dead. We are also furnished with some helpful hints on how to engage in moonshining and, if caught at it, how to outwit the sheriff and his bloodhounds. With only a couple of exceptions these vignettes are focused on the extraordinary and the marginal. Although only a limited number of pieces of the vast mosaic of southern life are revealed here, each one is recognizably southern, and each is worthy of the detail that eventually leads to seeing the design whole.

The diversity of subject matter eliminated the possibility of eliciting an encompassing theme. The editor, J. Kenneth Morland, wisely avoided attempting such a feat. He does call attention, however, to the successful utilization of anthropological concepts developed in the study of more traditional societies, and he points the direction for future research efforts. He believes that from the study and comparison of a sufficient variety of communities *in vivo* the community-study method, it will be possible to distill the essence which makes of the South a sub-culture.

The geographical facade of propinquity may create the illusion of an underlying unity, but it cannot erase the fundamental differences which separate Cavalier and Calvinist, or those of the hills from those of the Piedmont or the Tidewater. Such melding as arises within the new metropolitan form of community still remains to be discovered.

Certainly the results of community-study, when combined with the methods of culture-history, provide the most promising approach for understanding the variety of cultural tradi-

tions to which the South has been host. It seems more probable, however, that such studies will confirm the continuing persistence of several distinct cultural traditions which had their origin centuries ago in the Old World. Anthropology offers an approach which bridges past and present and provides a perspective which can add immeasurably to understanding what is meant when one speaks of the "South."

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Solon T. Kimball

The Memphis Commercial Appeal: The History of a Southern Newspaper. By Thomas H. Baker. (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1971. vi, 366 pp. Preface, eqilogue, bibliographical note, index. \$12.50.)

One of the unanswered questions about the history of cities in the United States is why there are so few adequate studies of their major newspapers. While they are certainly significant institutions which provide in their own publications the necessary records for the examination of the historian, few of them have received the attention they deserve. Professor Baker in *The Memphis Commercial Appeal* has made a noteworthy contribution toward filling this need.

Relying primarily on the files of the *Commercial Appeal* and its local rivals, he has traced the history of the city's leading newspaper from its establishment as the *Appeal* in 1841, and through its many changes during the following century and a quarter. He has succeeded in conveying the idea of the newspaper's inside story of ownership, management, and technical developments, and its outside record of news coverage and editorial comment. Although changes of ownership and management were common, the newspaper experienced a steady, if slow, growth toward becoming a large successful business and a respected institution in its city. It is probably unnecessary to add that the history of this newspaper also supplies a useful record of the city of which it has been a part.

Still, there are a few deficiencies in this valuable study. In style and organization it reflects its apparent origin as a doctoral dissertation. A more extensive revision from thesis into book would have provided more interesting fare for the reader.

There is, for example, a large stock of material of human interest concerning the development of this newspaper which has not been used in the preparation of this manuscript. Another weakness of the study is its inadequate attention to the recent history of the *Commercial Appeal*. While 268 pages are devoted to the first ninety-two years of the newspaper's existence, only sixty-four pages deal with the last forty-five years of the publication. The majority of readers would probably have more interest in the recent history of the newspaper than in its early development.

The study is of such quality and interest that it is to be hoped that the author will do additional research and publication on the recent history of this newspaper.

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Charles W. Crawford

Still Rebels, Still Yankees and Other Essays. By Donald Davidson. (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1971. xx, 284 pp. Introduction, acknowledgments, illustration, index. \$7.50.)

Poetry, the late Donald Davidson believed, must originate "out of the whole and living tradition" of a people. Because the South has its roots in tradition, it is most fitted to defend the importance of poetry in twentieth-century America. These ideas were shared by the Vanderbilt Fugitive Literary Group (1922-1925) which eventually metamorphosed into the prestigious New Criticism of Allen Tate and John Crowe Ransom, Davidson's fellow-fugitives. The Fugitive Group also led to the phenomenon of southern agrarianism and the manifesto *I'll Take My Stand* (1930) to which Davidson was a contributor. The book, he said later, "can be taken just as much as a defense of poetry as it can be taken as a defense of the South." For he was never simply poet, never simply critic. He was, supremely, southern poet and southern critic burdened with a romanticism as politically illogical as it was elegantly expressed.

The theme that binds this posthumous collection of essays, as Lewis P. Simpson points out in a concise introduction, is "the conflict between tradition and anti-tradition that characterizes modern society, with tradition viewed as the living con-

tinuum that makes society and civilization possible and anti-tradition as the disintegrative principle that destroys society and civilization in the name of science and progress." Let there be no C. P. Snows, but a succession of Stark Youngs! Yet modern industrial America demands poetry on every side, particularly of its scientists. The phenomenon would have left Davidson, one feels, either astonished or blind.

His disquisitions range widely. There are discussions of Yeats, John Gould Fletcher, Thomas Hardy, and Toynbee, and (of course) Stark Young, futurism and archaism, regionalism and nationalism and folklore, and the character of the hero—never, be it noted, anti-hero. Not a sentence is unpolished. The content is predictably pessimistic: "Our culture is falling apart." Traditional popular lore, for Davidson, is an important basis for high art; but there is no place in his philosophy for the popular lore, and emotion, arising from rootlessness— as in today's acid rock culture— or for that arising from unity of cause on the part of the diverse, such as present-day California grape workers creating freshly vital songs of protest. To Davidson, southern homogeneity was what made southern literature immortal.

The mystique of tradition has produced in its time both murder and the richly satisfying beauty of Yoknapatawpha County. It has seldom had a more articulate spokesman than Davidson. At his finest he can be moving:

If government is intended to serve human interests, what does it propose to do about them? They . . . are the incarnations of the principle of diversity through which the United States have become something better than Balkan, and without which the phrase 'my country' is but a sorry and almost meaningless abstraction.

If a modern reader can forgive such assertions as the one that "the South is wholly native, if the Negroes are excepted," and that D. H. Lawrence, Gertrude Stein, and James Joyce inhabit "literary bordellos," he can learn much in *Still Rebels, Still Yankees* about southern literature, about Davidson himself as an impassioned spokesman for conservatism, and about the ineffable charm of the cultural Old South at its best.

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Gloria Jahoda