

1972

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 (1972) "Book Notes," *Florida Historical Quarterly*. Vol. 51 : No. 2 , Article 9.
Available at: <https://stars.library.ucf.edu/fhq/vol51/iss2/9>

BOOK NOTES

A Teacher for All Seasons, A Biography of Ray V. Sowers, by Dan A. Davis and Michael E. Duclos describes the life and career of a distinguished member of the Stetson University faculty. Dr. Sowers came to Florida in 1932 to teach at Florida Southern College. From 1942-1948, he served as general supervisor for the schools of Duval County. He was a member of the state committee that developed the Minimum Foundation Program enacted into law in 1947 by the Florida legislature. In 1948, President J. Ollie Edmunds of Stetson invited Dr. Sowers to join his faculty as Director of Teacher Education. He retired in 1965, but his retirement lasted only two years; he accepted an appointment as Dean of the Liberal Arts College in 1967. Dean Sowers has made a major impact on public and private education in Florida. This biography, published by the Department of Education, Stetson University, DeLand, sells for \$5.50, and is available from the Stetson University Bookstore, DeLand.

The Wilderness Tatoo: A Narrative of Juan Ortiz, by William O. Steele, while designed primarily for the young reader has been carefully researched and the description of the Hernando de Soto expedition is interestingly presented. Juan Ortiz was originally a member of the Narváez expedition which landed in Florida in 1527. Captured by the Indians, his life was saved by the chief's daughter who helped him escape. Supposedly this incident was the basis for the rescue story later related by Captain John Smith of Virginia. Juan was rescued by de Soto, and he served as official interpreter for that expedition until his death in 1541. The book was published by Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, New York, and it sells for \$4.95.

Another Florida book designed for the young reader is *Four Flags Over Florida* by Walter Harter. It traces Florida's history from its discovery until her entrance into the Union as a state in 1845. The illustrations are by Russell Hoover. Walter Harter

lives in St. Augustine and is on the faculty of Bethune-Cookman College, Daytona Beach. The book was published by Julian Messner, New York, and it sells for \$4.29.

Included in the many and varied activities of the Jacksonville Sesquicentennial was a publications program. A *Commemorative Pictorial of Jacksonville*, compiled by Dena Snodgrass and published by the Jacksonville Sesquicentennial Commission, traces Jacksonville's 150-year history. It reproduces the petition of June 15, 1822 to Secretary of State John Quincy Adams which describes Jacksonville. This document serves as the basis for the date of the city's founding. The photographs, etchings, lithographs, and wood cuts, some of which are being published for the first time, are all excellent. They cover the major episodes of Jacksonville's history, touching upon such events as the Spanish-American War, the steamboat era, the great fire of 1901, and the twentieth century. This attractive books sells for \$1.00.

Florida Almanac is a very useful book of facts and information on Florida published for the *Miami Herald*. Sections are devoted to Florida history, archaeology, Indians, geography, transportation, tourism, mining and minerals, attractions, livestock, and a score or more of other topics. It is filled with data, statistics, election returns, etc. There are many maps and illustrations. The book sells for \$2.25. It is available from Dukane Press, 2901 Simms Street, Hollywood, Florida 33020.

Florida, Its Problems and Prospects is a Florida Studies text by Edward A. Fernald, professor of Geography at Florida State University. It is designed as a junior high school text, but it is also very useful as a geographical reference since it includes maps, tables, and a number of diagrams and graphs. It is available from Trend House, Tampa.

Jonah's Gourd Vine is a reprint of the well-known novel by Zora Neale Hurston who was born in Eatonville, Florida, and who lived there most of her early life. Published first in 1934, it became one of Miss Hurston's most important books. It was acclaimed as one of the best books of its time written about

blacks by a black author. The new edition carries an introduction by Larry Neal. J. B. Lippincott Co., Philadelphia-New York has published the reprint, which sells for \$5.95.

Stephen S. Renfroe, Alabama's Outlawed Sheriff was written by Professor William Warren Rogers of Florida State University and Ruth Pruitt. Stephen Renfroe has become a southern folklore legend. The authors have traced his career during the Civil War and the Reconstruction era when he became an enthusiastic member of the Ku Klux Klan. Having saved it from the horrors of the "New Order," a grateful community elected him sheriff of Sumter County. He quickly turned from being a law-and-order man to an outlaw, and when he died in 1886 he had earned the reputation as being one of the South's most notorious rogues. This volume details not only a man, but the tumultuous times in which he lived. It is a well written and well-documented book. It sells for \$7.50. It may be ordered from Sentry Press, P. O. Box 235, Tallahassee, Florida 32304. This is a new press, and *Stephen S. Renfroe* is its first product.

America's Lighthouses: Their Illustrated History Since 1716, by Francis Ross Holland, Jr., is a history of the United States Lighthouse Service. It briefly notes the history of the great lights of the Atlantic, Gulf, and Pacific coasts, the Great Lakes and Lake Champlain, and the lighthouses of Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. The first American lighthouse was probably a lantern dangling from a stick stuck in the ground near some harbor entrance. It is generally believed that the first permanent structure was the tower erected on Little Brewster Island in Boston Harbor in 1716, although there is some evidence that a lighthouse may have existed in Havana, Cuba, as early as 1671. The Tybee Island Light, erected on the Georgia coast in the 1740s to guide ships into the waterways leading to Savannah, is the oldest on the lower east coast. The St. Augustine Light dates to 1821 and was the first in Florida. An attempt was made to erect a lighthouse at Ponce de Leon Inlet in the 1830s, but because oil for the tower's lamps did not arrive, the light was never exhibited. Funds were not appropriated for this facility until 1882. The Cape Kennedy (Canaveral) Light dates

to the 1840s, and the Jupiter Inlet Light, about fifteen miles north of Palm Beach, went into operation July 10, 1860. The Carysfort, Key West, Dry Tortugas, and Cape Florida Lights began exhibiting in the 1820s. The Sand Key, Pensacola, St. Mark's, Cape St. George, Cape San Blas, St. Joseph Point, Egmont Key, Cedar Key, and Gasparilla Island lighthouses were all operating by the beginning of the twentieth century. *America's Lighthouses*, which includes many photographs, was published by the Stephen Greene Press, Box 1000, Brattlebro, Vermont 05301. It sells for \$15.00.

Historic Houses of America Open to the Public was compiled by the editors of American Heritage under the direction of Beverly Da Costa. Twenty-four Florida houses and historical districts are included. They represent Key West, Miami, Palm Beach, Pensacola, St. Augustine, St. Petersburg, Sarasota, and Tallahassee. The book sells for \$6.95; it is available from American Heritage Publishing Company, New York.

Democracy in the American South is the revised dissertation of Charles F. Cnudde who was graduate assistant to Professors James W. Prothro and Donald R. Matthews when they were writing their *Negroes and the New Southern Politics*. This study grew out of that association. Published by Markham Publishing Co., Chicago, in the *Empirical Democratic Theory* series, it sells for \$5.00.

You Can't Eat Magnolias is a collection of essays dealing with the southern issues of the 1970s. Edited by H. Brandt Ayers and Thomas H. Naylor, with an introduction by Willie Morris, it was published for the L. Q. C. Lamar Society. Southern culture, politics, education, and economy are discussed, and the South's past and future are analyzed. The index includes an excerpt from Florida Governor Reuben Askew's Inaugural Address of January 5, 1971. William R. Hamilton is the only Florida author represented in this collection, but others, like Professor Wayne Flynt of Samford University, have been closely associated with Florida history research. The volume is published by McGraw-Hill Book Company, New York, and it sells for \$8.95.

All These Peoples The Nation's Human Resources in the South, by Rupert B. Vance in collaboration with Nadia Danilevsky, appeared first in 1945. The volume made a major impact on southern thinking and southern scholarship at the time of its publication. Although much of its statistical data is now out-of-date, it is still an important book. Reprinted by Russell & Russell, P. O. Box 2008, Church Street Station, New York, 10008, it sells for \$24.00.

The Frontier Merchant in Mid-America, by Lewis E. Atherton is an expanded version of a monograph published in 1939. Dr. Atherton's additional research has been interwoven into this new volume, and the bibliographical citations have been brought up-to-date. The volume is published by the University of Missouri Press, Columbia, and it sells for \$10.00.

Our Land Too, by Tony Dunbar, is an examination of life in rural Mississippi and Appalachia. Much of the data was gathered from direct interviews with poor whites and blacks in the area. The paperback is published by Vintage Books, New York. It sells for \$1.95.