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Book Reviews

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BOOK REVIEWS

Florida's Politics and Government. Edited by Manning J. Dauer. (Gainesville: University Presses of Florida, 1980. xiv, 528 pp. List of contributors, foreword, introduction, photos, tables, maps, appendices, index, \$10.00.)

This is a remarkable book. Who would have guessed that thirty contributors could produce a manuscript that possessed any degree of unity, coherence, and readability? That it could be achieved is due to the skill and wide experience in Florida politics and government of the general editor, Manning J. Dauer, and his associates. The project was well conceived in the first place, and the contributors carefully chosen for the roles they were to play. They come from college and university faculties and from positions in state government and administration. The result is a readable, useful, and usable study of all aspects of the subject.

The editor considers politics and government to be functions of a people, their history, their economy, their interests and their needs. This is more than a description of the structure and function of state government. It is also an explanation of how it developed and how it works. The book is written for the lay reader and the college student. It should prove especially useful to the millions of people who have made Florida their adopted state and need some background to understand its politics and government and participate more effectively as citizens. Governor Bob Graham in a foreword points out that Florida does differ from the other states. He argues that the solution of problems by unified action at the national level has not and cannot work effectively in all areas. Only state government can be aware of these differences and is in a position to cope with them. If the Reagan presidency can reverse the trend toward centralization at the national level, Florida may well have an opportunity to demonstrate what can be done. This book delineates Florida's problems and the response to them at the state level.

Very importantly, the Florida of today is a product of the post World War II years. We make much of St. Augustine as the first permanent white settlement in the country, but in fact Florida is one of the last states to develop. The twenty-seventh state became

twenty-seventh in population in the census of 1940, with just under 2,000,000 residents. In just forty years it has reached eighth place and has 9,000,000 inhabitants. The majority of these people have moved into Florida from other states and about one-half million are from Cuba. The growth of government agencies and services needed to assimilate these people and to meet their needs accounts for the rapid change and growth in state government and the character of Florida politics.

Florida is a southern state. It was third after South Carolina in secession from the Union in 1861, and the defeat in that effort to establish a new nation left lasting scars on its people. It is, however, equally significant that Florida moved rapidly away from her sister southern states, and has been increasingly non-southern since 1865. The first indication of a new future for Florida was the abandonment of cotton growing by the end of the nineteenth century and the transfer of attention to cattle, citrus, winter vegetable growing, forest industries, and tourism. And the center of population and development moved down the peninsula into South Florida. No state has made greater strides in so short a time in the protection and preservation of the natural environment. This is due partly to the geographical and geological nature of such areas as the Kissimmee River-Lake Okeechobee-Everglades drainage basin. Florida's greatest asset has been, and still is, its climate and natural environment. Clean air, clean water, clean soil mean more to Floridians, and they have done more to maintain them.

Because of the rapid growth and the large number of newcomers, Florida politics has become fragmented; politics are personal, almost local in character. Traditionally Democratic, the state has recently been moving more toward two-party politics and a more stable political organization. With four new members in the national House of Representatives as a result of the 1980 census figures, Florida will play an even more important role in national affairs and politics in the future.

A vote of thanks is due to all those who were part of this enterprise. The editor and his collaborators worked without fees or royalties. The University Presses of Florida made the book available at less than one half the going price for such a volume.

University of Miami

CHARLTON W. TEBEAU

Florida's Aviation History: The First 100 Years. By Warren J. Brown. (Largo, FL: Aero-Medical Consultants, Inc., 1980. vi, 246 pp. Dedication, acknowledgments, introduction, photos, bibliography, index. \$4.95.)

From the earliest days up to the present, Florida has had more than its share of aviation activity, including the setting of world records and other exciting historical events constituting internationally significant milestones. Yet, surprisingly, available books on Florida aviation history are few indeed.

Warren Brown has done an excellent researching job, and has acquired photographs from a variety of sources, aided by his intense interest and personal knowledge of the subject. A licensed pilot who gets around the state extensively in his own plane, he has friends in all phases of aviation who are willing to share their knowledge, historical contacts, and sources with him.

By profession he is a medical doctor in family practice and a civilian flight surgeon. Yet he exhibited remarkable organizational talent in completing in his leisure time this major writing task. He has two non-fiction books to his credit, along with several booklets and many published articles.

Related throughout the book are a number of Florida's claims to aviation greatness: the world's first wireless message sent from plane to ground was at Palm Beach in 1911; the first airplane to span the nation eastward landed at Jacksonville Beach in 1912; one of Glenn Curtiss's earliest flying schools was established at Miami Beach in 1912; the world's first commercial airline (heavier-than-air) was the St. Petersburg-Tampa Airboat Line in 1914; the navy established Naval Air Station Pensacola as its permanent aviation training site in 1914; four transcontinental speed records were set between San Diego and Jacksonville Beach between 1919 and 1930, including one by Lieutenant Jimmy Doolittle (later a general and World War II hero); three world non-refueling endurance records were set at Jacksonville Beach between 1928 and 1931; the All-American Air Maneuvers were staged each year in Miami from 1929 through 1940; and the only accredited aviation oriented university in the western world has been located at Daytona Beach since 1965.

A truly exhaustive history of Florida aviation would fill several volumes. Dr. Brown has compacted his writing to the most

essential facts, and has selectively chosen the more interesting and colorful events, both to heighten reader interest and to limit the size of his book. He treats his historical data well, although the contemporary scene is handled a bit sketchily. Over 100 excellent photographs are included, many of which have not been previously published.

An aviation history so eventful, and covering such a large geographical area, poses a problem of arrangement. Should the entire book be arranged simply in chronological order of happenings, or chronological within several major geographical areas, or, alternatively, chronologically within several subject classifications (i.e. airlines, private flying, military, government involvement)? The author's solution was to give appropriate weight to the advantages of each arrangement scheme, allowing a compromise meld to result that is quite logical. As further organizational aids, chapter titles are descriptive, and a good index is provided.

Colorful and accurate facts and figures are included. His bibliography is extensive. Dr. Brown has written his book in a popular informal, appealing, and easily digestible style. No aviation enthusiast or lover of Florida lore will want to be without it.

Jacksonville, Florida

JOHN P. INGLE, JR.

Florida Archaeology. By Jerald T. Milanich and Charles H. Fairbanks. (New York: Academic Press, Inc., 1980. 290 pp. Preface, acknowledgments, tables, maps, illustrations, references, index. \$19.50.)

"We decided to write the book as an introduction to the archaeology of Florida— an overview that would appeal not only to students but also to the many people who are not professional archaeologists yet are interested in the state's archaeology." Statements much like this one can be found in the introduction to many archeological works. But, archeological writing which achieves this elusive balance is far more rare than the introductory promises would lead one to expect. In part, it is a matter of writing skills, or rather, the lack of such skills. Mostly, it is the nature of archeological data and the differing data needs of different audiences.

This volume delivers on its introductory promises because it is written to take advantage of that vast middle ground between the detailed information needs of the professional archeologist and the more general approach required to interest other audiences. The book contains plenty of detail. The detail is used to support the archeological interpretations and is not presented as an end product. It is not necessary to memorize artifact types and time sequences in order to understand the points being made. The authors note: "We have only mentioned briefly, or relegated to figures and tables, detailed information on such things as potsherds, which, although certainly important as a tool to the archaeologist, actually played only a small part in behavioral systems." It is this last term, "behavioral systems," which indicates how this book is different from earlier, more synthetic treatments of Florida archeology. Archeological sites and materials are seen as the patterned remains of past behavioral systems. Description takes a back seat to explanation and, where possible, the answers to the "why" questions take precedence over the "what" questions. The adaptation of past peoples, through time and space, to Florida's varying environments is the organizing principle followed in this volume. Thus, it is reasonable to suggest that the authors' theoretical orientation is cultural ecological. This has resulted in a presentation which is both logical and useful.

The book opens with two introductory chapters which help to set the scene. The first includes a brief history of archeology in Florida; the second is an overview of the various natural and cultural Florida environments. The natural environment is discussed in terms of the resources available to past human population; the cultural in terms of the past populations distributions through time and space. This is accomplished by outlining archeologically-defined culture stages and culture areas. While neither chapter will satisfy the expert, they provide basic information needed to deal with what follows in this study. The next eight chapters follow the temporal-geographic structuring established in chapter two. Each, from three to ten, covers a time period or developmental state. Some chapters, like three and nine, deal with adaptive patterns during a specific time period in Florida. Others discuss the specific adaptive patterns which developed in a particular environment during a given time period.

There is material of particular interest to the historian: the

Indians of the historic period, and the Seminole. Anyone seeking a summary or synopsis of Florida prehistory or the prehistory of a particular region of the area can secure it.

In this reviewer's opinion, this is the best book now available on Florida archeology. It is well-written, well-organized, and complete. The professional archeologist and historian will find it an excellent summary or overview of Florida archeology. For the nonprofessional it is an excellent introduction to the topic.

University of South Florida

STEPHEN J. GLUCKMAN

The Revolution Remembered: Eyewitness Accounts of the War for Independence. Edited by John C. Dann. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1980. xxvi, 446 pp. Illustration credits, foreword, acknowledgments, introduction, chronology of events, illustrations, index. \$20.00.)

In this final volume of the Clements Library Bicentennial Studies, John C. Dann presents narratives from seventy-nine pension applications of Revolutionary War veterans, filed in response to the Pension Act of 1832. Earlier pension legislation had been limited to members of the Continental service whose war records were on file, but this act applied to every veteran of the Revolutionary War, including those serving in state militias, naval or border patrols, Indian companies, espionage units, on privateers, and in independent companies formed to fight local loyalists. Since war records were not always available even for state militia, a veteran, to qualify for a pension under the act of 1832, had to provide in his application the time and place of his war service, the names of units and officers, and the engagements in which he participated. The application, whether written out by the veteran himself, which was seldom the case, or recorded by a pension agent or clerk from his oral account, usually took the form of a narrative sworn to in a court of law.

The editor has sifted through the entire collection of some 80,000 applications (found in Record Group 15 of Veteran Administration Records, and also available from the National Archives on microfilm) and selected seventy-nine of them for their historical significance, literary value, and geographical spread,

giving preference to the longer narratives which "tell a story." These narratives are organized according to the military campaigns in which the applicants claim to have participated— "New England at Arms," "War Around Manhattan," "Countering Burgoyne," "New Jersey Mobilizes," "The Philadelphia Theater," "War in the Carolinas," and "Virginia to Yorktown"— reinforcing the myth that the preponderance of military activity in the Revolution was in the northern states. The narratives themselves vary in interest. Since this reviewer found the earlier narratives in the volume generally less interesting than those included later on, specifically in "The Philadelphia Theater," "The War in the Carolinas," and "The Indian Frontier," the reader is advised to approach the narratives selectively rather than in the order presented. By modernizing the spelling and punctuation the editor has removed some of the flavor of the narratives but made them far easier to read. The brief notes introducing the narratives identify the applicant, note any obvious errors in the account, and satisfy the reader's curiosity whether a pension was awarded as the result of the application.

These narratives provide a wealth of material and, if used with discretion, form an important body of source materials. The sub-title of the volume, "Eyewitness Accounts of the War for Independence," is somewhat misleading, however, since they are not reliable sources for a study of the conduct of the campaigns of the War; they are reminiscences of seventy- to eighty-year-old men recorded some fifty years after the events. But they do serve to alert students of the Revolutionary War and the decades following that conflict of the mass of demographic materials contained in the complete files of applications for pensions. They also provide the reader with a new understanding of what Revolutionary life was like for the ordinary citizen called up at intervals for military service.

The Revolution Remembered is a handsome book, edited with an eye to the general reader. Contributing to its over-all value are the illustrations of prints and portraits from the Revolutionary period which themselves provide an important collection of historical material.

Agnes Scott College

GERALDINE M. MERONEY

Correspondence of James K. Polk. Volume V, 1839-1841. Edited by Wayne Cutler, Earl J. Smith and Carese M. Parker, assoc. eds. (Nashville: Vanderbilt University Press, 1979. xlii, 836 pp. Preface, symbols, chronology, notes, index. \$20.00.)

This volume begins with the last weeks of Polk's term as speaker of the House of Representatives in 1839, and ends with his defeat in the campaign for reelection as governor of Tennessee. In between, Polk was elected for a term as governor in 1839, and William Henry Harrison carried Tennessee in the presidential campaign of 1840. Polk and his Democratic friends were greatly humiliated by their failure to carry Tennessee for Martin Van Buren in the presidential election of 1836 and by the election of Newton Cannon, the Whig candidate, as governor. Their question was why did it happen and how could similar Democratic defeats be prevented in future campaigns. Polk and his correspondents agreed that Tennessee voters had been deceived by Hugh Lawson White, John Bell, and others, and if shown the error of their way they would return to their former Democratic allegiance. The Democrats failed to realize the great popularity of White and the fact that the influence of Andrew Jackson was no longer a major factor in Tennessee politics.

Before leaving Washington in the spring of 1839, Polk announced his candidacy for governor of Tennessee, and his friends began campaigning. Polk preserved few copies of his own letters, so most of the information as to his plans and activities must be gathered from the contents of replies from friends. They thought it best for Polk to canvass the entire state and at every opportunity to meet Whig Governor Cannon on the platform. The correspondence reveals the details of this canvass.

Polk won by a small margin, but the Democrats considered it a great victory. Tennessee had been redeemed. Polk's allies began immediately to urge him to seek the vice presidency in 1840. There were many letters of Congratulation from throughout the nation, mostly former congressional colleagues. They also urged that he seek the vice presidency. President Van Buren had not been popular in Tennessee and Vice President Richard M. Johnson was even less so. No doubt Van Buren would be renominated should a national convention be held, but Johnson might be replaced by someone of broader appeal. Polk's friends set to work

in earnest, contacting supporters in many states. But it soon developed that in several places, including the important state of Virginia, there was endorsement for Polk but strong opposition to a convention. Polk's friends had to shift tactics; without these states he could not be nominated. They now urged that the convention make no nomination for vice president, leaving to each state the privilege of supporting the candidate of its choice. The plan worked, as is revealed in letters published in this volume.

Although the strategy worked, the campaign which followed was a failure. Many former Tennessee Democrats who had supported White rather than Van Buren in 1836, refused to endorse Van Buren in 1840. Harrison carried Tennessee. Polk and his friends attributed the defeat to lack of organization and a poor press. Indeed, the Democratic press in Tennessee was a problem. The more important papers had supported White in 1836, and had refused to return to the Democratic fold. A lack of money and editorial talent prevented the establishment of a powerful new paper.

But Polk was soon off and running again. During the presidential campaign he announced his candidacy for reelection as governor in 1841. This time he would thoroughly canvass the state, and surely the voters would listen to reason. But as his friends reported, the voters showed less interest in a discussion of issues than in the antics of Whig candidate "Lean Jimmy" Jones. They had tasted the log cabin and hard cider style of campaigning and liked it. Polk lost.

The letters in this volume do not give us much of Polk himself; too few are his own correspondence. They deal with political issues, but there is little on economic or domestic matters. Even the letters exchanged between Polk and his wife while he was campaigning are almost purely political. Personal business is limited to a few items from plantation overseers, which were previously published by Bassett.

However, regardless of what the letters do or do not reveal, the new editors of this series have continued the high standard of excellence begun by Herbert Weaver and his associates.

University of Georgia

JOSEPH H. PARKS

Violence and Culture in the Antebellum South. By Dickson D. Bruce, Jr. (Austin: University of Texas Press, 1970. x, 322 pp. Acknowledgments, introduction, conclusion, world view, notes, bibliography, index. \$16.95.)

In this provocative book Professor Bruce attempts to set southern beliefs about violence in a cultural context. He notes that violence "evoked some deep and often discordant themes in the culture of greater effect than even race or slavery could do." Furthermore, there was "the overwhelming acceptance of violence by almost everyone in the society" (p. 6). Bruce agrees that violence was due to numerous factors, but especially passion, described as "the wellspring of human action" and serving as "a central focus in the morality of everyday life." But what of excessive passion? Southerners, whose religious heritage reinforced their pessimistic view of life in the world, did not trust themselves to keep their passion under control and were even less sure of others.

Pessimism, surviving in the South at a time when the North and Europe were adopting new points of view about society, was strongly reinforced by the region's own history, its static society, and slavery. Believing in the fragility of human relations, upper class Southerners were devoted to order, stability, discipline, and correct deportment.

Using contemporary sources, the author describes Southerners' attitudes as illustrated in their duels, child rearing, militarism, oratory, hunting, slave discipline, and fiction. For upper-class folk the duel was "a drama in which two contending moral forces, passion and restraint, occupied center stage" (p. 13). Skill in shooting or injuring an opponent was secondary; revenge had no place. Satisfaction was the purpose, and "satisfaction came as one proved his ability to behave as a principal should; and as he made his opponent take the same risk" (p. 38).

Whereas gentlemen were expected to deport themselves in such a way as to minimize violence and to use the duel only as a last resort, plain folk accepted violence as a normal means of settling disputes. In frontier towns such as Houston, where nearly all males were armed, assaults and murders over trivial disputes were common.

Bruce says that "much of the region's reputation for violence—

indeed, probably all of it— came from the fact that slavery not only survived but even thrived in the South” (p. 114). However, the slaveowners’ chief goal was a well-ordered plantation where the whip was to be rarely used. To him violence was secondary. Ex-slaves had a different recollection of the system. They remembered that violence was primary, that punishment was often capricious, and that domination, not order, was the chief goal.

In practice the South was probably no more militaristic than other regions of the country, although the southern orator, with frequent references to the glories of the Revolution, would lead one to believe differently. Southern writers, such as Simms, emphasized violence in their stories. So did the “southwestern humanists.” But their violence consisted mainly of good-natured frontier brawls. The author concludes that “the veneer of manners and sociability Southerners cultivated was feared to be dangerously thin protection from the inner man whose passions and cruelties were likely to break out at any moment” (pp. 239-40). This is a theme that Poe exploited more fully than any other writer; that is, that passion could become so obsessive as to overcome all restraint and control.

This book is heavy reading at times, but the author’s insights are worth it, though doubtless some of his views will be challenged. Especially rewarding are his chapters on dueling and slavery. However, did the views toward violence by plain-folk and frontiersmen in the South differ from their counterparts in other regions? What of the hunters and, except for Poe, the writers? Were their views toward violence unique? Was southern child rearing and oratory different? The author fails to give us comparisons. Nevertheless, this is a good psychological study of Southerners’ attitudes toward violence.

Clemson University

ERNEST M. LANDER, JR.

New Masters: Northern Planters During the Civil War and Reconstruction. By Lawrence N. Powell. (New Haven, Connecticut: Yale University Press, 1980. xiv, 253 pp. Preface, epilogue, appendix, tables, notes, bibliographical essay, index. \$15.00.)

This book is an important addition to Reconstruction literature, being the first thorough monographic study of Northerners who bought, leased, or otherwise acquired interests in southern plantations during and just after the Civil War. It is based upon a study of 524 Northerners of this category, all of whom were involved with cotton plantations. It does not include any discussion of those who became involved in sugar planting.

The actual text amounts to only 155 pages. A statistical appendix uses twenty pages, extensive footnotes account for fifty-one pages, and a useful bibliographical essay occupies twelve pages. The research is excellent. The author made use of manuscript collections from at least twenty-three depositories, plus all the appropriate official documents, travel accounts, and memoirs. He is obviously familiar with the secondary works applying to the period under discussion. Not only is this work significant in itself; it can also serve as an initial guide to others wishing to do research in the same or related areas.

An introductory chapter discusses the wartime decision of the United States government to lease abandoned plantations and the growth in the North of the belief that a combination of Yankee industriousness and good management with free black labor could make cotton plantations far more productive than they had been before the war. The second chapter is largely a description of the men who accepted this assumption and ventured into cotton planting. It is noteworthy that very few of them had any previous farming experience of any kind. Basically they believed that their superiority in the direction of free labor would enable them to earn huge profits. The author emphasizes the fact that, although there was some humanitarianism motivating these men, they were primarily moved by confidence that they could make large amounts of money in a few years.

Powell delves fairly deeply into the attitudes of Southerners toward these newcomers. In the early stages, Northerners with capital to invest were welcomed with open arms. Apparently, too,

many Southerners agreed that northern men could manage freedmen better than someone who had been accustomed to working slaves. Some who could have secured capital elsewhere gladly accepted Yankees as partners. By and large, social relations between these carpetbagger planters and their neighbors were cordial in 1865 and 1866, but this did not last. In many cases Southerners resented the way Northerners disregarded racial etiquette, sometimes even going so far as to call a freedman "mister." The beginning of Radical Reconstruction added tension, because most of the Yankee planters were Republicans. Finally, when natural disasters in 1866 and 1867, and a precipitous drop in cotton prices in the latter year brought heavy losses rather than the high profits that both Northerner and Southerner had expected, amity came to an end.

Perhaps the most interesting section of the book relates the experience of these Northerners with the freedmen. Whether they were idealists who hoped to make the former slaves into industrious wage earners while making themselves rich, or whether they were interested only in getting rich, and confident that their superior managerial ability would enable them to use black labor to do so, they were soon reduced to despair. The freedmen used every trick they had learned as slaves to avoid work, to keep from being over-worked, or to show their displeasure over some matter of which their employer might be totally unaware. They feigned illness, ran away, broke tools, abused animals, and now and then asserted themselves officiously just to assure themselves that they were really free. Perhaps most annoying of all, they supplemented their diet by helping themselves to poultry, livestock, and anything they could steal from the smokehouse. As their northern ideas and experience proved unequal to the task of dealing with the freedmen, most of the immigrant planters began to accept fully the racial ideas of their southern neighbors.

The author's style is occasionally pedestrian, but this is more than compensated for by wonderful quotations from the northern planters and their neighbors. One might complain mildly that the type is a bit small for hard-worked eyes. But these are minor points. This book should be a part of every collection dealing with the Reconstruction period of American history.

McNeese State University

JOE GRAY TAYLOR

Reconstruction and Redemption in the South. Edited by Otto H. Olsen. (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1980. v, 250 pp. Introduction, notes, notes on contributors, index. \$17.50.)

This collection of studies, one for each of six secession states, is an important indication of a changing direction in Reconstruction historiography. Paradoxically, its authors write political history of the old-fashioned variety, as free of the new methodologies of quantification and behavioral analysis as from the old racial biases of the Dunningites. They do so with the editor's unqualified assertion of the centrality of political history to the South's Reconstruction experience. This in itself presents a noteworthy variant from the present concentration of scholarship upon the black experience and the agrarian economy of the post-emancipation South.

Even more striking is the less explicit but unmistakable shift of focus from North to South in seeking explanation for the ultimate failure of the Radical Reconstruction program. The assumption of northern responsibility for conditions in the post-war South, an orthodoxy that has survived all revisionisms, is not frontally repudiated; echoes remain. Yet the possibility of Reconstruction's success is equated with the fortunes of southern Republicanism. Both the unity of the volume and its fresh direction grow out of two questions it addresses: Why did Republicanism fail to establish itself as a viable, accepted, major contestant for power in the postwar South? Did southern Republicanism ever stand a chance? Answers are sought not beyond, but below, the Mason-Dixon line.

With the exception of the editor, each author published in the 1970s a monographic study of recognized quality that dealt with Reconstruction politics in the state about which he writes: Jerrell H. Shofner for Florida, Sarah Woolfolk Wiggins for Alabama, William C. Harris for Mississippi, Jack P. Maddex for Virginia, and Joe Gray Taylor for Louisiana. The editor is no less an expert on North Carolina. Their collective intimate knowledge gives the volume an authority that could not have been attained by any one scholar. On occasion it encumbers the analysis and impedes the reader with highly condensed narrative. This is not

the case with Taylor's essay on Louisiana. Its virtue in this respect renders his analytical judgments more incisive but less convincing. Olsen's North Carolina chapter is the most successful in balancing detailed narrative and generalization.

The value and usefulness of the volume rests as much upon the one as the other. On the complex Reconstruction politics of a majority of the ex-Confederate states it offers an impressive introduction to the novice, a convenient refresher to the veteran. On the relation of southern politics to what many historians view as the great missed opportunity of the nation's past, it presents a wide range of insights. The editor's twelve page introduction is unusually felicitous— a discerning comment on past and present Reconstruction historiography, and a shower of queries to challenge future research and interpretation. There is no claim to having found definitive answers. On the question of whether southern Republicanism might have succeeded, the editor reports the authors as divided. The reader is left to discover for himself the extent and nature of their differences.

The weight of judgment appeared to this reviewer predominantly negative. Only Maddex for Virginia indicates a strong possibility for success. Taylor "is convinced that there was never a chance" (p. 217); and most surprisingly, Olsen who faults North Carolinian Republican leaders for their orthodoxy, reasonableness, and efforts to persuade nonetheless concludes: "Admitting these Republican weaknesses, however, it is not clear that a promising alternative existed" (p. 196). Shofner believes that no solution for southern postwar problems was possible "without basic changes in the social attitudes of nearly all southern whites" (p. 42). Harris and Wiggins might be read as leaning toward a verdict of "possible," and they agree in their identification of the decisive problem requiring solution. Sarah Wiggins has formulated it effectively: "How to create a biracial political party without driving away white constituents" (p. 51). Neither historian tries very hard to convince the reader that the dilemma could have been resolved.

In his introduction, the editor raises the question of whether the role of racism was causal or tactical. On the basis of these studies he could have answered with assurance: "It was both." With less certainty he might have hazarded the judgment that

white racism alone would not have been able to cripple southern Republicanism.

Hunter College and Graduate School, CUNY

LAWANDA COX

Nineteenth-Century Southern Literature. By J. V. Ridgely. (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1980. x, 128 pp. Editor's preface, prologue, epilogue, bibliographical note, index. \$9.95.)

In the minds of many there has always been something special about southern writers. Perhaps it was the very South they wrote about, a remnant captured and sealed in time and space like a bee in amber, suffused with a strongly defined sense of place—Faulkner with his Yoknapatawpha, Eudora Welty with her Morgana.

Yet, as Flannery O'Connor, one of the most perceptive of southern writers understood: "The longer you look at an object, the more of the world you see in it." Even as the writers looked and saw, the scene before them was changing. The Old South lost its rural, small-town quality; the aristocracy, the unwavering concept of blood and family strength, the traditions of feudality were crumbling before their eyes.

The "Agrarians"—Tate, Davidson, Ransome, and company—took their stand and scattered. Only three remain: Andrew Lytle, Lyle Lanier, and the best-known, Robert Penn Warren of *All The King's Men* and Guthrie, Kentucky, currently living in Connecticut. James Agee praised famous men and moved to New York City to work for *Fortune Magazine*. Even Thomas Wolfe, the Asheville one, who described the South as "the dark, ruined Helen of my blood," came to regard himself as a Northerner. And he recognized that "there was something wounded in the South . . . something twisted, dark, and full of pain." In an odd convolution it was what Faulkner identified as "the problem of the human heart in conflict with itself."

Nevertheless there is no denying the unique flowering of what has been called the "Southern Renaissance" of at least the first half of the twentieth century, the impressive outpouring of more novelists, poets, essayists, critics, and other writers than would be possible to enumerate here. To discover what literary influences

fertilized the soil and sowed the seeds for such germination, one turns with considerable expectation to Professor Ridgely's *Nineteenth-century Southern Literature*.

With the exception of Edgar Allen Poe and Mark Twain, whom some may be surprised to think of as southern, and Sidney Lanier, the authors of nineteenth-century southern literature are not exactly household words. Their works have not survived and come down to us in the twentieth century in the same way that *Gone With The Wind* will no doubt proceed into the twenty-first. But John Pendleton Kennedy, Thomas Nelson Page, William Gilmore Simms, and George Tucker were writing in the general period of the devastation that gave Margaret Mitchell her material. They chose, understandably, to turn their backs on the disaster of the Civil War and the collapse of the Confederacy. Except for Jefferson Davis's ultimate defense of the southern cause, *The Rise and Fall of the Confederate Government*, the others closed their eyes. Who can blame them? Their hearts and their spirits were broken.

This is over-simplification, of course. The "unwritten war" has already been blamed for enough. But what *were* those nineteenth-century writers doing? Apparently they were turning out Gothic novels, Southern Gothic, that is. In a restorative, releasing reflection of the Romantic movement in Britain and on the Continent, they sentimentalized the past in "historical fiction," and glossed over the present as best they could with inevitable nostalgia and yearning. Only the local-color, vernacular authors like Twain and Joel Chandler Harris seemed concerned with reality.

This does not give us the right to dismiss as frivolous Kennedy's *Swallow Barn* (the "first plantation novel . . . written by a man who had no financial stake in an agrarian system"), Simms's *Guy Rivers*, Tucker's *The Valley of Shenandoah* (although Ridgely acknowledges it as "rather tedious"), or Page's *In Ole Virginia*. To keep the dialect intact, "Virginie" would have been more appropriate. Ridgely has written whole books upon Simms and Kennedy, so obviously he does not consider them insignificant. The ladies, apparently, were not penning much.

Suffice it to say here that these books and others like them were what the Southern Renaissance writers had read or at least knew about. They had paved the burnt brick road that led to esteem, fame, and a salable commodity. Whether the "myth of the idyllic

plantation" has, as has been suggested, "had an extraordinary pervasiveness in the American consciousness," will perhaps always be debated in the glass menageries of our minds.

In any case, we should certainly be exceedingly grateful to Ridgely for opening a window that many of us have been curious to peer through. The book is concisely and appealingly written, fastidiously annotated, attractively presented, and a worthy addition to The University Press of Kentucky's scholarly New Perspectives on the South series, not to mention the libraries of all who are concerned with the special literary flowering that seemed only able to be nourished by the loamy fertile soil of the South.

Winter Park, Florida

MAJORY BARTLETT SANGER

Southern Writers and the New South Movement, 1865-1913. By Wayne Mixon. (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1980. x, 169 pp. Acknowledgments, introduction, epilogue, notes, select bibliography, index. \$13.00.)

Immediately after the Civil War the South found itself in a dilemma with regard to industrialization. If, as many Southerners believed, it was the North's more industrialized economy that had enabled it to defeat the more agrarian South, should not the South emulate the North and industrialize itself? With its cheap labor and plentiful natural resources it seemed that all the South needed was a large supply of capital— which had to come from the North.

In this study of twelve southern writers Wayne Mixon shows how this debate over industrialization split southern writers into two camps: those favoring it and those opposing it. Even those who supported it had second thoughts as they saw the evil effects of trying to redo the South to fit the northern mold. For in transforming the agrarian South to a more "modern" region, proponents of the New South were also destroying much good from the antebellum days, especially a way of life that stressed the quality of life over the mad pursuit of material goods.

With summaries of novels and frequent quotes from poems, Professor Mixon points out the struggle that writers such as Paul Hamilton Hayne, John Esten Cooke, and Thomas Nelson Page

were going through. While some authors wanted to emulate the industrial prowess of the North, others believed that the New South could be achieved through the diversification of agriculture, that there should be less dependence on the staple-crop economy of King Cotton. These writers believed that sectional reconciliation and racial harmony (at least its semblance) were essential for the New Order. A number of these writers hoped that the New South could eclectically emulate the best parts of northern values, while avoiding crass materialism and still retain the admirable qualities of the Old South: idealized southern women, chivalrous gentlemen, and a family life centered in the model mansion. Mixon uses the term "Plantation Tradition" to describe the authors' trait of blending in the best of the antebellum South with the materialism of the New South.

Other writers, like Sidney Lanier, opposed the New Order and championed self-sufficient farming as a means of reviving the South. While he had little influence on contemporary southern leaders, the Nashville Agrarians fifty years later would revive Lanier's ideas: "a farm is not a place to grow wealthy; it is a place to grow corn" (p. 72). Joel Chandler Harris and Mark Twain also stressed self-sufficient farms and idyllic towns. Occasionally writers such as George W. Cable took on the issue of racism, accusing his fellow Southerners of ignoring the plight of the black as they pursued economic gains. Although he loved the South dearly, he also believed that Southerners wore blinders when it came to social ills. Other writers, such as Ellen Glasgow, criticized the immoralities of the New Order and its reliance on the sentimental legend of the Lost Cause.

For the modern reader the five-page epilogue may be the most fascinating, as Professor Mixon shows how the Southern Literary Renaissance of the 1920s continued the fight against industrialization. William Faulkner, Thomas Wolfe, and the Agrarians were to continue the criticism of the New Order, pointing out in their fiction how much was being lost by the spreading of cotton mills and coke furnaces. If nothing else, several of the twelve writers presented in this book set the stage for southern writers of this century to look more critically on the postbellum South and all the evils that industrialization was causing.

This is a well-written, well-researched book, although at times it lapses into a dissertationese style that become ponderous.

It treats a difficult question (how should the postbellum South resume its rightful place in society?) by showing how different authors argued different sides of the question and how the same author could have opposing views. One can argue that some of the authors chosen (John Esten Cooke, Thomas Dixon, Jr., and Will N. Harben) were not influential enough to treat along with writers Sidney Lanier and Joel Chandler Harris, but their presence does add a dimension and a slightly different perspective. It also helps to point out how formerly popular and influential writers have not fared well, at least in terms of good literature.

University of Florida

KEVIN M. MCCARTHY

A Southern Renaissance: The Cultural Awakening of the American South, 1930-1955. By Richard H. King. (New York: Oxford University Press, 1980. xi, 350 pp. Preface, notes, index. \$15.95.)

In the preface to this work, Richard King relates that in an interview for a graduate fellowship, one of his interrogators asked him to indicate the leading southern historian. To the surprise of his questioner, his answer was William Faulkner. As the director of a recent master's thesis, entitled "William Faulkner, Historian," in which one of my students favorably compared Faulkner with the likes of Cash, Woodward, Simkins, Phillips, *et al.*, I confess that I share King's attraction to Faulkner. This may keep me from reviewing this work objectively.

Strictly speaking this volume is not a work of history but rather a work of literary criticism, addressing itself to facets of the great explosion of southern literature from 1930 to 1955. King devotes attention to Will Percy, Allen Tate, W. J. Cash, Lillian Smith, James Agee, Robert Penn Warren, V. O. Key, C. Vann Woodward, and of course the greatest of the greats—William Faulkner. King believes that the Southern Renaissance occurred when the writers and intellectuals of the South "engaged in an attempt to come to terms not only with the inherited values of the Southern tradition but also with a certain way of perceiving and dealing with the past." He believes these Renaissance writers sought to understand what he calls the "Southern family ro-

mance." In ten well-written, well balanced, and well-critiqued chapters, King traces the attempts of these writers and intellectuals to come to grips with this tradition of the southern family romance. Receiving attention are subjects such as white southern racism, southern politics, and the varieties of historical consciousness at work in southern culture in the 1930s and 1940s. Finally, he believes this period witnessed an emerging self-consciousness in southern culture which progressively demystified and rejected the southern tradition.

I can quarrel with neither King's pro-Faulknerian bias nor his thesis of the demystification of the southern tradition. Some of our colleagues may feel that he could have chosen an altered list of writers and intellectuals around which to build his case, but I frankly like his choices. The biographical sketches of his subjects are pithy and perceptive. There is just the right amount of personal information balanced with critiques of intellectual stances and progressions. Not only has King familiarized himself with those he writes about but also he has given much attention to their writings, their stands, and their places in the Renaissance. Unfortunately, King has included only one woman and has neglected to include any blacks at all, but to have done so would have meant at least another and possibly two more books. Perhaps these are on his future agenda.

New Mexico State University

MONROE BILLINGTON

Oscar W. Underwood: A Political Biography. By Evans C. Johnson. (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1980. xvi, 480 pp. Preface, illustrations, notes, bibliographical essay, index. \$27.50.)

Evans Johnson's doctoral dissertation on Oscar Underwood has been widely used for some years by historians interested in the South's Progressive era. Louisiana State University Press has performed a service by publishing the revised dissertation in its Southern Biography Series. Although updated and somewhat altered in form and substance, the published version is very much similar to the original dissertation.

Underwood was a man of mediocre ability and limited

oratorical skills who mastered parliamentary tactics and single issues (notably, the complex tariff question). These skills, together with tireless work and loyal support from like-minded conservatives, allowed him to become the first man after Henry Clay to be elected to the leadership of his party in both houses of Congress, and the first deep South candidate to make a serious race for a presidential nomination after the Civil War.

The congressman's legislative career was not brilliant, but he did make contributions. Beginning his career with some progressive positions, he drifted steadily to the right. During most of his career, he represented the Big Mule— planter coalition which generally dominated Alabama's politics and kept it elitist and conservative. In Congress he specialized in complicated tariff questions and tried to assist his constituency, especially by development of Wilson Dam at Muscle Shoals. On most social issues— prohibition, woman suffrage, labor issues— he voted conservatively.

The biography is sympathetic to Underwood, but certainly not adoring. Johnson points to the congressman's inconsistencies and compromises. He summarizes Underwood as a man who distrusted the masses and became a representative of elitist Bourbon Alabama politics, a man out of step with the unsophisticated and more "liberal" Alabama electorate.

In many ways he reminds me of Florida's Senator Duncan U. Fletcher, who incidentally supported his Senate colleague for the presidency against Woodrow Wilson in Florida's 1912 Democratic primary. Both men, conservatives by temperament, began their careers in fairly liberal times, then gradually came to represent special interests and develop single issue expertise (Fletcher on rural credits and maritime policy, Underwood on tariffs). Fletcher was more resilient and flexible and somewhat more comfortable with his party's occasional flirtations with liberal causes. Both supported private development of Muscle Shoals facilities in order to produce cheap fertilizers for farmers. Underwood ran well in Florida in the 1912 Democratic presidential primary, partly due to Fletcher's enthusiastic support, but lost badly in 1924.

Like Fletcher, Underwood occasionally descended to demagoguery on the Negro question when campaigning against more liberal opponents, but generally he took the highroad and stuck

to issues. Like Fletcher, also, he tended to be theologically liberal in a time when the South's white masses combined theological intolerance (anti-Catholic, prohibitionist, Ku Klux Klan-style enforcement of morality) with economic and political reforms.

The biography is meticulous and detailed, almost to a fault. I found the chapters on Underwood's various political campaigns and Muscle Shoals to be interesting and thorough. The intricacies of the tariff controversy, and discussions of Underwood's position on virtually every issue before Congress, I found episodic and tedious.

Occasionally, irrelevancies appear which do not move the narrative ahead. For instance, Johnson mentions an incident when Underwood's car struck a child while he was campaigning in Maine (p. 406). The incident is unrelated to the paragraph or the chapter and is extraneous. Such problems make the biography difficult reading, but the student of southern history should not ignore it. It is a thorough, workmanlike piece of scholarship, the most complete study we shall have concerning a pivotal figure in the important years between Populism and the New Deal.

Auburn University

WAYNE FLYNT

The Lumbee Problem: The Making of an American Indian People. By Karen Blu. (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1980. xv, 276 pp. Preface, acknowledgements, appendix, notes, bibliography, index. \$22.50, cloth; \$6.95, paper.)

The Lumbee of Robeson County North Carolina, are legally Indians but lack the normal accouterments of Indianness (a native language, cultural base, and tribal status). For over 100 years they have struggled to gain recognition as Indians in the face of opposition from whites and from other Native American groups and have gradually succeeded. *The Lumbee Problem* is a history of that struggle, a description of the Lumbee collective identity, and an analysis of the meaning of that identity. The author, an anthropologist at New York University, addresses the question: "If the Lumbee lack the traditional mechanisms for holding themselves together— formal organization, explicit mem-

bership criteria, distinctive cultural paraphernalia— then what does hold them together” (p. 2)? Professor Blu’s answer to that question is “their shared ideas about themselves as a people.”

While there are many versions of Lumbee origins, the account generally accepted among the Lumbee themselves is one suggesting they are descendants of east coast natives who intermarried with the sixteenth-century European settlers of Raleigh’s Roanoke Island community. However, when they were first identified historically, during the 1700s, the ancestors of today’s Lumbee were English-speaking farmers who had no recollection of such roots. Because of a mixture of physical traits, the Lumbee of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries were treated by whites as mulattoes and included with blacks in a general non-white social category.

The Lumbee resisted this designation, and in 1885 were given legal recognition as “Croatan Indians” by the North Carolina General Assembly. Then, in 1956, Congress awarded similar recognition to the group as “Lumbee” Indians, but excluded them from federal benefits for Indians, an exclusion the Lumbee are currently contesting.

The author questions the viability of “ethnicity” as a cross-culturally significant category and stresses the importance of the Lumbee’s conception of themselves as a distinctive people. That distinctiveness is founded in “their own traditional conviction that they were descended from Indians” (p. 202), and defined vis-à-vis their perceptions of area blacks and whites. The Lumbee are Indians primarily because of the way they have chosen to view themselves as a people, and though their symbols of collective identity are often confusing and ambiguous, and their common history unarticulated, there is a fundamental continuity to that identity. Though this experience in some ways defies analysis, it is a real one and cannot be ignored if one is to understand the Lumbee, their persistent claims to Indian status, and their refusal to be assimilated.

The book is an important and well-written comment on ethnicity and a timely contribution to the meager literature on the Lumbee. The only fault that I find in the book, and this is not a major one, is the location of the final and strongest chapter. This insightful analysis of ethnicity as a social scientific concept I believe would be more appropriate at the beginning of the book.

The Lumbee Problem is a must for any historian interested in Native America or fascinated by the mechanics of group identity. Also, from a heuristic perspective, the book would make excellent supplementary reading in a college course on American Indian history, an option facilitated by the volume's very reasonable price.

Middle Tennessee State University

KENDALL BLANCHARD

Fort Gibson: Terminal on the Trail of Tears. By Brad Agnew. (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1980. xi, 274 pp. Acknowledgments, introduction, illustrations, maps, conclusion, notes, bibliography, index. \$14.95.)

Brad Agnew has used Fort Gibson as the focal point to detail the clash of cultures that occurred in the years 1817-1841 on the Arkansas frontier and in the Indian Territory. The Army's mission during these years was to bring peace and order to the frontier. Dr. Agnew documents and describes the military's role as it painfully and with numerous frustrations sought to keep the Cherokees and their allies, who had voluntarily emigrated to the trans-Mississippi, from destroying the Osages.

Efforts to quell the Osage-Cherokee rivalry compelled the Army first to reinforce its force on the Arkansas frontier at Fort Smith and then, in 1824, to establish Fort Gibson. After inauguration of Andrew Jackson as president and implementation of the forced removal policy, the Fort Gibson soldiers focused time and energy on keeping the plains Indians and immigrating redmen from turning the region into a battleground. Blood feuds between pro- and anti-treaty factions of the immigrating Indians, particularly the Cherokees, acerbated by a struggle for political power between the Western and Eastern Cherokees racked the Cherokee Nation in late 1830s and compounded the soldiers' mission. As if this were not enough, the military had to enforce the Indian Intercourse Act of 1822 against the whites and evict squatters from the Indians' lands, which frequently brought forth a storm of abuse from politicians and newspaper editors.

The central figure of the Fort Gibson drama is Brigadier General Matthew Arbuckle, and the author treats him with un-

derstanding and sympathy from his arrival on the Arkansas frontier in February 1822 until 1841. Arbuckle was intimately involved in efforts to implement the government's Indian removal policy. Never commanding more than a few understrength battalions and responsible for a vast region, Arbuckle met the challenge by a skillful application of the "carrot and stick." He did not lead men into battle, nor did he undertake punitive raids on Indian villages. His role in history, however, is certainly more significant than many better-known soldiers who made their reputations as fighters and campaigners.

Dr. Agnew introduces us to other giants, both Indian and white, who played vital Indian Territory roles in these years. Among other Army officers encountered are Colonel Henry Dodge, and Lieutenants Lucius B. Northrop and Jefferson Davis of the United States Dragoons; Cherokee leaders— John Ross, Stand Watie, William Webber, and John Jolly; Osage chiefs— Clermont, Tally, and Mad Buffalo; Indian traders— Nathaniel Pryor and Auguste Pierre Chouteau; missionary William F. Vail; and Indian commissioners— Monford Stokes, Henry Ellsworth, and John F. Schermerhorn.

Sam Houston's Fort Gibson years are detailed with no punches pulled, for as the author writes, Houston's "three years among the Indians added no luster to his reputation. They were years of disappointment and failure in which the worst side of Houston's character was exposed."

Dr. Agnew, through meticulous research and thought-provoking evaluations, brings a new dimension to this phase of the justly and much criticized Indian removal policy. The soldiers of Fort Gibson and its dependent posts do not come through to the reader, however, as aggressive racists, a role assigned to them with increasing frequency in recent years, as more and more historians and writers echo the theme tolled by Helen Hunt Jackson in her *A Century of Dishonor*. Utilizing an impressive number of primary and secondary sources, Agnew, through a case study, reinforces Father Francis Paul Prucha's thesis that the military blunted "the sharp edges of conflict as two races with diverse cultures met on the frontier."

The author is to be commended for his extensive and critical employment of primary documents found in the National Archives, as well as newspapers, particularly the *Arkansas Gazette*

and *The Army and Navy Chronicle*. These items, frequently overlooked or given slight consideration by the popular historian and journalist, provide the grist for a well-organized and well-written treatment of a phase of our history that will be of interest to many readers of the *Florida Historical Quarterly*.

National Park Service
Washington, D.C.

EDWARD C. BEARSS

The United States and the Caribbean, 1900-1970. By Lester D. Langley. (Athens: The University of Georgia-Press, 1980. ix, 324 pp. Preface, prelude, a vision of empire, maps, epilogue, the end of empire, bibliographical essay, notes, index. \$22.00.)

This book is a continuation of a previous study written by Professor Langley (*Struggle for The American Mediterranean: United States-European Rivalry in The Gulf-Caribbean, 1776-1904*). It is a survey of political, diplomatic, economic, and some cultural relations between the United States and the various Caribbean and Central American states. His perspective is primarily from the United States. Chapters are divided primarily by presidencies reflecting North American political eras. The book takes the story of American involvement in the Caribbean from the administration of President McKinley down to the start of Richard Nixon's.

While the book is primarily a narrative account of the major issues, the author argues that the United States had, in effect, an empire and a sphere of influence important to its international affairs. Questions of security and economics always seemed to dominate American actions in the Caribbean, and by the late 1960s concern for Castro-styled revolutions became a specific and paramount issue. Langley documents the failure of American policy to establish military security and political tranquility in the area. He attributes this failure to North American assumptions of cultural inferiority of the Caribbean population, insulting those who viewed the United States as an alien society. He concludes by stating that criticisms of Hispanic culture, not always seriously respecting local political aspirations while all the time

desiring political and economic stability, characterized North American policy toward the region.

While his case was stated most strongly at the end of the text rather than as part and parcel of each chapter, the author clearly suggests that Caribbean affairs captured a significant portion of American diplomatic concern throughout most of the twentieth century (with the possible exception of World Wars I and II). One has only to think of Castro and Cuba, or the United States intervention in Santo Domingo in the 1960s, and even earlier about constant military interventions during the years prior to the New Deal and its Good Neighbor Policy to realize that the area has always been of considerable concern to the American government. Langley does not make the mistake of many other diplomatic historians of considering the area being studied as the center of all attention because he carefully balances the value of the Caribbean against other diplomatic concerns.

The book is based on secondary sources rather than on his primary research and thus serves as a convenient summary of what other historians have learned about United States-Caribbean relations. The author provides an excellent bibliographic survey which is complete and informative. His writing style is engaging and clear. If there is a criticism to be made it is that he might have devoted more attention to the period 1945-1960 (as compared to the coverage given the 1960s) especially since so much research has yet to be done on this era.

Langley's volume is a useful introduction to the subject which conveniently brings together much that we already knew but would otherwise have had to find in a number of other monographs. This book will thus be a welcome addition to any collection on American diplomatic history.

New York City, New York

JAMES W. CORTADA

BOOK NOTES

Allen Morris's *Florida Handbook* deserves the great popularity it receives whenever a new edition is published. The older volumes continue to serve as important reference guides. The 1981-1982 *Florida Handbook* is available. It was printed by Peninsular Publishing Company, Box 5078, Tallahassee, Florida 32301. The price is \$11.95. It contains much information, particularly about the political structure of state government. The duties and responsibilities of the governor, the cabinet officers, the legislature, and the judiciary are included. There are also short articles dealing with local government, climate, taxes, population, and a score of other topics. There is a listing of the executive department agencies, and the State Constitution, as revised in 1968 and subsequently amended, is included. Articles on Tallahassee, the Governor's Mansion, Florida during the Civil War, the discovery and exploration of Florida, rivers and steamboats, the Everglades, and museums are included. "Some Eventful Years" lists historical happenings from the sixteenth century to the present. There are also many photographs, charts, and tables which add to the style of the book. The index to the State Constitution and to the volume itself makes the *Florida Handbook* a most valuable research guide.

Charlton W. Tebeau, professor emeritus of the University of Miami, has updated his *A History of Florida*. A paperback edition has been published by the University of Miami Press. Dr. Tebeau brings his history into the 1970s covering Governor Askew's two terms and the Bob Graham administration to the 1979 legislative session. Many of the topic areas have been rewritten, including taxes, environmental protection, educational growth, industrial development, and the impact that racial and ethnic groups (particularly blacks and Cubans) have had on Florida in recent years. An important addition is the information in the first chapter on Indians. The bibliography reflects recently published books and articles, and the index has been expanded. *A History of Florida* is the best one-volume history of the state available. The paperback edition sells for \$16.95.

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Siege! Spain and Britain: Battle of Pensacola; March 9-May 8, 1781 is a collection of essays by Jesse Earle Bowden, Allan Gantzhorn, Alfred B. Thomas, Sandra Johnson, Norman Simons, Woodward B. Skinner, Dorothy Brown, Leora Sutton, and Dicey Villar Bowman. Edited by Virginia Parks, *Siege!* was published by the Pensacola Historical Society to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the Spanish victory over the British in Pensacola in 1781. The essays provide a contemporary perspective of Pensacola, and essays on the British in that city on Bernardo de Gálvez, Major General John Campbell (commanding officer of the British forces in Pensacola), Gálvez's campaigns (1779-1780), Pensacola's fortifications, the 1781 siege of Pensacola, ethnic groups and their influence on Pensacola's history, and a roster of people living in Pensacola and the vicinity in the 1780s whose descendants still reside in the area. The suggested readings, index, illustrations, and the colorful cover make this a valuable and attractive volume. Order from the Pensacola Historical Society, Seville Square, Pensacola, 32501; the price is \$5.00.

Like I Saw It are the recollections and memories of Angus McKenzie Laird of Tallahassee. He recounts his childhood at Laird Side Camp (the turpentine facility which his father managed), and his years as an involved student and as a member of the faculty of the University of Florida. Laird played an active role in campus affairs as a debater, editor of the campus newspaper, the *Alligator*, and as a member of the Kappa Sigma social fraternity. Student political parties on the Gainesville campus during the 1920s, the organization of Florida Blue Key, and other important and intriguing events in the history of the University are described in Dr. Laird's book. Autographed copies of *Like I Saw It* sell for \$12.00, and it may be ordered from Saint Andrews Press, 507 Plantation Road, Tallahassee, 32303.

The Saint Johns-Oklawaha Rivers Trading Company is continuing its publications of facsimiles, pamphlets, monographs, and brochures for its *Historic Byways of Florida* series. One of these is *Florida: Beauties of the East Coast*, a collection of photographs with text by Mrs. H. K. Ingram. It was published in St. Augustine in 1893 by the Jacksonville, St. Augustine, & Indian

River Railway to promote the rail system that Henry Flagler was developing from Jacksonville south to Miami. Jacksonville, St. Augustine, Ormond-By-The-Sea, Titusville, Rockledge, Eau Gallie, and Melbourne are some of the communities described. The photographs are of some of the luxurious hotels built by Flagler. There are also pictures of some of the tourist attractions that appealed to northern visitors to Florida. Another facsimile that has been reprinted is *A Souvenir of the City of DeLand, Florida*, a collection of contemporary photographs and advertisements. It was published in 1902 by the city of DeLand "for the purpose of presenting to the notice of our Northern Friends the advantages and beauties of our city and its surroundings." The advertisements are intriguing. The Electric Light and Ice Company advertised arc or incandescent electric lights, pure ice, and cold storage. Pure aerated milk delivered twice daily, artistic and sanitary plumbing, boot, shoe, and harness repairing, hotels (rates two to three dollars per day), groceries, photography, clothing, tailoring, fertilizer, lumber, and the services of doctors and attorneys were also advertised. The facilities of John B. Stetson University and its schools of liberal arts, law, technology, business, art, and music are described, together with the Heath Museum and the collection of eighty stuffed Florida birds in the Museum. A small plat map of DeLand is included. These pamphlets may be ordered from the Saint Johns-Oklawaha Rivers Trading Company, Box 3503, DeLand, 32720; and the price is \$5.95 for each of the reprints.

History of the Greenville Missionary Baptist Church, 1849-1979 is by Edwin B. Browning, Sr., who for many years was the resident historian of Madison County. Known first as Shiloh, the name of the church was later changed to its present designation. It has had at least four sites. Extant church minutes date to October 1910, but according to oral tradition the church began on May 7, 1849. There is a list of charter members and the early deacons. The organizing minister was Elder S. C. Craft who helped organize the Florida State Baptist Convention in 1854. Mr. Browning's history notes the important role the church has played in the religious and social life of the community for many years. Copies may be ordered from Greenville Baptist Church, Greenville, Florida 32331.

The Spanish Censuses of Pensacola, 1784-1820: A Genealogical Guide to Spanish Pensacola was compiled by William S. Coker and G. Douglas Inglis. The indexes are by Polly Coker. This is the third volume in the Spanish Borderlands series being published by the Perdido Bay Press, Route 2, Box 323, Pensacola, 32506. The text contains all known Spanish censuses of Pensacola from 1784 to 1820, including the names from the *Santa Visita* of 1791 and the confirmation lists of 1798. Strength reports for Fort San Marcos de Apalache are also listed. There is an introduction for each census and information about individuals whose names are listed in the census records. The list of Pensacola settlers, 1781-1821 (appendix B), provides valuable information, as do the "Guides to Genealogical Research for Pensacola and Escambia County." There is both an index to the introductions, a name index and a bibliography. The paperback sells for \$20.00.

The Siege of Pensacola, 1781: A Bibliography, by James A. Servies, has been published as Library Publications Number 12 by the John C. Pace Library, University of West Florida. Prepaid orders of \$4.00 per copy may be sent to the John C. Pace Library, University of West Florida, Pensacola 32504.

Gainesville Women of Vision is an anthology collected and edited by Gussie Rudderman. It includes contributions by outstanding Gainesville women who comment on their lives, families, social and economic activities, and their involvement in a variety of civic activities. Many of the women have also added their own philosophies of life. Important is the information relating to the history of the Gainesville community and its institutions— clubs, churches, and the political, social, environmental, and philanthropical organizations in which the women of Gainesville have been involved over the years. *Gainesville Women of Vision* may be ordered from its author, 6601 S.W. 35th Way, Gainesville, 32601. It sells for \$10.00.

Older People in Florida '80-81 is the most recent Statistical Abstract published by the Center for Gerontological Studies, Bureau of Economic and Business Research, University of Florida.

John Craft and Carter C. Osterbind are the editors. It provides data and information about people older than sixty-five living in this state. Of all fifty states and the District of Columbia, Florida has the largest percentage (17.6) of older persons in the population. Both the numbers and percentages have increased steadily since 1950. In some counties the growth has been dramatic, and it has created a variety of problems relating to housing, health care, transportation, recreation, and employment. In Pinellas County in 1979, more than one-third of the population was older than sixty years. The situation is similar in Palm Beach, Broward, Brevard, Dade, Sarasota, and other counties, particularly in central and south Florida. *Older People in Florida* provides information on income, housing, vital statistics and health, employment, transportation, social insurance, and welfare, quality of life, and health, education and cultural services. Published by the University Presses of Florida, University of Florida, Gainesville, the Abstract sells for \$11.50.

The Island of Ortega-A History is a pamphlet written by Dena Snodgrass who notes how often and to what degree the St. Johns River has affected the history of Ortega island from the earliest time to the present. The first residents of Ortega were the Indians – the late Archaic and the Timucua. Then the Creeks, or the Seminoles as they became known, lived in the area until the Second Seminole War. William Bartram described the Ortega forests as he saw them in April 1774, but he did not mention Abraham Jones who had received the property as a grant from British Governor James Grant four years earlier. Daniel McGirt lived on the island with his family in the 1780s, and then it became the property of Don Juan McQueen. He developed it as San Juan Nepomuceno Plantation. John Houstoun McIntosh of St. Marys, Georgia, was the next owner. It was he who changed the name in honor of Josef de Ortega, judge advocate of East Florida, who had negotiated approval of the sale from McQueen. Over the years Ortega has continued to play an active role in the history of Jacksonville and the St. Johns River. Once a bridge was completed, as it was in 1908, the island could be opened for extensive development. Ortega is recognized as one of the most beautiful of Jacksonville's residential areas. *The Island of Ortega* may be

ordered from Ortega School, 4010 Baltic Avenue, Jacksonville, Florida 32210. It sells for \$1.50, plus 50¢ for handling.

“New History” has been much in vogue the past two decades. This procedure involves students in research projects using primary source material which might (and in fact often does) exist outside the traditional history classroom and/or library. But “New History” is not new at all, according to Thomas J. Schleretch in his introduction to *Artifacts and The American Past*. This is a recent publication of the American Association for State and Local History, Nashville, Tennessee. The author notes the many places that students may go seeking the answer to their research questions besides manuscripts and books. Photographs, road maps, craftsmen’s tools, domestic residences and city neighborhoods provide answers to historical inquires, and can be utilized as learning tools. Schleretch suggests ways to explore and teach history outside the traditional classroom experience; historical photography, mail-order catalogs, historic house museums, museum villages, the 1876 Centennial, plants and natural material culture, and regional studies are some of the suggestions. He acknowledges his reliance as a teacher on what he calls “above-ground archeology,” and urges all who are interested in discovering their heritage to examine family albums, bibles, and genealogies; to look at the “built-in environment of their own homes and localities;” and to record oral histories and childhood and parental memories. The price for AASLH members is \$10.50; for nonmembers, \$13.95.