

1982

## Book Reviews

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### Recommended Citation

Society, Florida Historical (1982) "Book Reviews," *Florida Historical Quarterly*. Vol. 61 : No. 4 , Article 8.  
Available at: <https://stars.library.ucf.edu/fhq/vol61/iss4/8>

## BOOK REVIEWS

*Old Hickory's Town, An Illustrated History of Jacksonville.* By James Robertson Ward, in association with Dena Elizabeth Snodgrass. (Jacksonville: Florida Publishing Company, 1982. 256 pp. Preface, foreword, photographs, maps, selected bibliography, index. \$29.95.)

This book owes much to J. J. Daniel, former publisher of the *Florida Times-Union*, whose commitment to Jacksonville history led him to initiate this volume in 1980 as a project of the Florida Publishing Company. He assigned James R. Ward to write and John S. Walters to edit it. Historical accuracy was to be protected by collaboration of Dena Snodgrass of the Jacksonville Historical Society.

This is a big book in format, the type faces are large and easy to read, and high quality glossy paper stock is used throughout. A well-prepared four-page, three-column index provides a handy reference to subjects and individuals. The historical narrative is sandwiched between a Prologue and an Epilogue which characterize the city's history as varied, complex, and sometimes tempestuous, but fortunate in times of crisis to have leaders willing to place the good of the community above self.

The unfolding of the history begins with an overview of pre-historic Indian times, followed by a summary of earliest European explorations highlighted by the French Huguenot settlement on the St. Johns River in 1564. There follows the familiar story of the eradication of the French by the Spanish and the beginning of permanent settlement by Spain. The first Spanish era (1565-1763) is chronicled largely around the rise and the fall of the Spanish missions and increasing military conflict with the British colonies to the north after the 1670s.

In 1763, at the close of the Seven Years' War, East and West Florida were ceded to Great Britain and the northern border established at the St. Marys River in the east. Britain encouraged settlement of the St. Johns River area and eventually completed a King's Road from southern Georgia to Mew Smyrna crossing the St. Johns at the Cowford, later called Jacksonville. With the beginning of the American Revolution in 1775, Florida became

an increasingly troubled colony. Refugee Loyalists from the rebelling colonies arrived in numbers, uprooted and disgruntled banditti from both sides raided and pillaged in East Florida, and attack from American Revolutionary forces was believed to be a threat. At the end of the Revolution, perhaps believing the costs of retaining the Floridas to be too high, Britain abruptly returned the provinces to Spain. From the departure of the British until 1821, the authority of Spain was never really reestablished in East Florida. A chaotic period ensued marked by Indian problems, recalcitrant English and American planters contemptuous of Spain, incursions by pirates and renegades of various nationalities, and invasion by Andrew Jackson. This clouded part of Florida history is told with an informative amount of detail rarely found and is one of the most valuable portions of the text.

After long negotiations, decrepit Spain, unable to hold it longer, delivered the Floridas to the United States in 1821. In June of 1822, at the Cowford, Jacksonville was founded at the instigation of Isaiah D. Hart to honor General Andrew Jackson whose association with Florida had meant much to its American inhabitants. By 1832 a city government had been incorporated, and the town slowly grew until the Civil War. During the 1850s a railroad connected it with Lake City and points west, and it began to be an important lumber-exporting port. Though rumors of Indian attack worried some residents during the Second Seminole War, Jacksonville's connection with it was as a supply depot and port of debarkation. The war publicized Florida to the nation, and afterwards tourists came, sparking the first burst of prosperity for the city.

The Civil War, however, destroyed all that. Occupied four times by Federal forces, many of the town's buildings, mills, and docks were destroyed. During the last Federal occupation, Jacksonville Unionists elected delegates to the Republican National Convention of 1864; they cast Florida's one vote for Abraham Lincoln. Rebuilding of the city also started in 1864 when the United States Army repaired the railroad and telegraph lines. Despite the discontents of Reconstruction, Jacksonville was thriving by 1870 as the citrus industry became important to its economy together with lumber and tourism.

Though the great river made Jacksonville a port, the navi-

gability of the St. Johns had always been difficult due to shifting sands at its mouth. During the 1880s the first significant progress was made to correct this problem by the construction of jetties; and by 1890 these efforts were declared successful. The Cuban filibustering activities of the 1890s followed by the Spanish-American War are given only brief attention, almost as a prelude to the catastrophic fire of 1901. The fire, and recovery from it, dominates most of an entire chapter— a chapter in which is also told the little-known story of Jacksonville as a short-lived center of the motion picture industry.

Two final chapters deal with the city from World War I to the present. They dwell upon the physical growth of the city, the eroding interlude of the Great Depression, the impact of military installations on the city's prosperity, the coming of new industry and business, the building of a new airport, as well as highways, bridges, public buildings, schools, and colleges. They delineate at some length the long struggle that culminated in a consolidated city-county government.

This is a lavishly color-illustrated book which makes a handsome conversation piece for anyone's living room. Some 400 illustrations and a handsomely decorated dust jacket make it a work of art. Of particular historical interest are the rare nineteenth century photographs of the city, the extensive photo coverage of the 1901 fire, and the reproductions of original old documents and maps. Unfortunately, on a considerable number of the latter the writing is not legible. *Times-Union* artists Lyn Lazarus and John Gold made valuable contributions to the artistic quality of the book as did Jacksonville artist Cleve Miller, whose portraits of Jackson, Robert E. Lee, and P. G. T. Beauregard are magnificent.

This was designed as a popular history despite the presence of documentary footnotes. Though the book was not aimed at them, professional historians might have some bones to pick. More rigorous proofing could have spared readers a number of typographical errors and a few incomplete or erroneous map and picture captions. Overall, however, the authors and J. J. Daniel's Florida Publishing Company are to be complimented on this impressive production.

*University of Florida*

HERBERT J. DOHERTY, JR.

*Pensacola, The Deep Water City.* By Lucius Ellsworth and Linda Ellsworth. (Tulsa: Continental Heritage Press, 1982. 192 pp. Photographs, sponsors and benefactors, introduction, index, bibliography, acknowledgments. \$29.95.)

Lucius and Linda Ellsworth's new book came to hand during the Christmas holiday— a time when one wants only to browse a few pages and enjoy a few pictures, yet to feel that the time was well-spent and to be enticed back to a pleasant interlude at the earliest opportunity. What a perfect book *Pensacola* proved to be! The authors and compilers, and photographer Phillip Radcliffe, have put together an ideal volume for everyone who knows and all who love “the deep water city” and its heritage.

One might describe it as a coffee-table volume, for it is large and handsomely printed and illustrated, but it will fit nicely on any scholarly bookshelf. The text traces the history of Pensacola from pre-discovery Indian times to the 1980s in a smooth, easily-paced narrative that is so relaxed and straightforward that it hides the extent and depth of the hard, up-to-the-moment scholarship that lies behind every paragraph and illumines every picture. The selected bibliography, unobtrusively provided at the end of the text, only suggests the scope of the authors' research, but it will carry a curious reader far into the scholarly resources for the history of Pensacola. As the text is relatively brief, and the style and pace established from the outset do not lend themselves to internal discursions, the authors have supplemented the narrative with many separate short asides dealing with interesting men, women, episodes, and social lore. Thereby we get special glimpses of eighteenth-century scientists, the artist George Catlin, “yellow jack,” Geronimo, the good ship *Tarpon*, T. T. Wentworth, and Mary Turner Rule Reed.

While international, national, and state politics provide a certain framework for *Pensacola's* narrative, the care and attention given to the city's people, their economy, their social relations, and their pastimes expands the word-picture of a changing city to match the wonderful selection of prints and photographs culled from every conceivable source. Whereas many similar volumes seem to celebrate the shells of once proud buildings, the Ellsworths have given us the faces of Pensacola men and women: every class, at every period, at work and at play— and

indeed they are often worth a thousand words when it comes to conveying an accurate sense of social history. The great and famous are duly catalogued, but it is the pose, the dress, the face of the nameless that best mirrors the daily life of the city.

One of the happiest surprises in a volume full of delights is the section devoted to the corporate benefactors who helped make this book possible. These brief and modest accounts of some of Pensacola's oldest and leading businesses open a new window on the economic and civic life of the community. The cumulative picture of succeeding generations at work, of son following father, and son after him, often explains in proud and happy particulars the enduring contribution of the Pensacola business community.

If a reviewer must find a flaw, it can only be the absence of adequate town plats to follow the growth of the city. This will not bother Pensacolians, who know their city well, but it would have helped to guide us out-of-towners for whom Pensacola is a window to the Gulf. The Ellsworths have done a wonderful job of compiling a fascinating book that does honor to their endeavor and full justice to Pensacola. It should quickly become a collector's prize.

*Auburn University*

ROBERT R. REA

*Atlas of Florida.* Edited by Edward A. Fernald. (Tallahassee: The Florida State University Foundation, Inc., 1981. xi, 276 pp. Acknowledgments, photographic credits, preface, introduction, maps, tables, illustrations, selected statistics, gazeteer, bibliography, index. \$27.50.)

In his poem "Looking At A Map", Dannie Abse, one of Britain's foremost living poets, comments on the inadequacies in the maps of his homeland: "The map does not show the rain: only pale blue for sea and Great Britain a mosaic of multi-coloured counties where the English weather never changes, and the local hills and mountain ranges are shaded heavily— though never white as moods of snow may shade them." Abse would be hard pressed to level such criticisms at the colorful and large *Atlas of Florida* edited by geographer Edward A. Fernald of

Florida State University. Fully eighteen pages with 157 maps and three satellite images are, for example, devoted to Florida's varied weather and climate. If anything Abse would be struck by the comprehensiveness of this *Atlas*. Here, certainly, is almost everything anyone ever wanted to know about Florida portrayed in over 800 maps, graphs, tables, photographs, and drawings. It is a handsomely produced book, richly printed with a four-color process.

The *Atlas* is organized into eight sections. The first of these is the "Introduction" which gives a thumbnail sketch of Florida, complete with photographs of the state's official flag, flower, tree, and bird, followed by a brief discussion of the *Atlas* itself. Surprisingly this introductory section is one of the weakest elements in the *Atlas*. Not only is the term gazeteer misspelled twice but for some reason the grid references given for the places and features listed in the gazeteer do not agree with the poorly chosen general reference map provided. An errata sheet to clear up this source of potential confusion has been inserted as a loose card which will doubtless go astray unless fastened in by thoughtful librarians. The reference map itself is a reduced copy of the Florida map which was included in the *National Atlas* of several years ago. In spite of its obvious reduction the reference map still proclaims a scale of 1:2,000,000. In its reduced state the names of many of Florida's towns and cities are hard to read without magnification, and the names of many water bodies printed in blue ink on a blue background approach invisibility. This map should not have been employed in the *Atlas*; rather a newly-drawn map should have been produced by the highly qualified cartographers employed in the project. The same is true with respect to the three pages of maps devoted to Florida's chief urban areas. Here also the editor has chosen to reproduce maps which were originally intended to accompany the state highway map. They are good highway-major street maps but hardly the sort of detailed city maps which should be available in a "useful reference tool, for school, public, business and government libraries" which the *Atlas* purports to be. As we are reminded in the *Atlas*, four out of every five Floridians lives in an urban area. As urban dwellers they are legitimately interested in the towns and cities of Florida and deserving of maps superior to those

normally included with the highway maps found in every car owner's glove compartment.

The other substantive sections of the *Atlas* include; "Natural Environments," "Population," "History and Culture," "Economy" "Recreation and Tourism," "Transportation and Communication," and "Planning, Energy and Florida's Future." An extended set of selected statistics on each of Florida's counties, the already mentioned gazeteer which curiously includes the Miami Canal but omits places like Miami, Miami Beach, and Lake Worth, a bibliography and an index complete the volume. Each section is introduced by an essay overview of the topic prepared by an expert, who is usually designated as a "section editor," and other contributors.

In the section devoted to Florida's "History and Culture," Florida State University Professor of Geography Donald J. Patton assisted by Elizabeth D. Purdum and Frank A. Unger provide a sprightly and informative overview of their topic. Of particular interest to students of Florida history are map displays dealing with early maps of Florida, early Florida Indian tribal locations at the time of European contact, the Spanish mission system, exploration and early settlement, Florida boundaries, early settlements by period of their founding, patterns of early land grants, the Seminole Wars, Civil War in Florida, evolution of county boundaries, historical population density by county unit from 1840 through 1960, historical water and transportation routes, early economic activity, growth of tourism, expansion of water control schemes in south Florida from 1911 to 1970, presidential election results by county units from 1848 to 1980, and a display of portraits of all of Florida's governors from Andrew Jackson to Bob Graham.

The *Atlas of Florida* is an ambitious addition to the growing list of state atlases across the United States. Fernald and his associates have done their state a very valuable service in its preparation. Like any project of such broad scope it is not without flaws and shortcomings. Hopefully much will be learned from this adventure in atlas production which can be utilized to improve future editions.

*University of Georgia*

LOUIS DE VORSEY, JR.

*Guardians on the Gulf: Pensacola Fortifications, 1698-1980.* By James C. Coleman and Irene S. Coleman. (Pensacola: Pensacola Historical Society, 1982. 120 pp. Photographs, maps, illustrations, sources for list of camps, posts, stations, glossary, references, index. \$97.95 paper;)

The authors assert that no coastal city in the United States has had a greater variety of military installations than Pensacola. In order to deal with this variety they organize their material in different ways. They begin with national periods: early Spanish fortifications, the British period, later Spanish, and then the United States. They then consider the major fortifications in greater detail: Forts Pickens, McRea, and Barrancas and the redoubt and post of Barrancas. The chapter on the evolution of coastal defense fortifications at Pensacola discusses the engineering of the forts era by era, along with the changes in cannon installed. It notes the periods of building activity and of stagnation, and accounts for the alternation.

The authors examine Pensacola from the point of view of its place in the British-French-Spanish struggle for empire in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. They also note the role that Pensacola's coastal fortifications played in this contest. The history of the Navy Yard and the Naval Air Station, is included, but there is no attempt to carry the story into the space age. This recent history is yet to be written.

In spite of attempts such as that made by the Endicott Board in 1885 to prepare a blueprint for strategic fortification of the coasts, systematic fortifying was not possible. Much of the time there were no plans, and if there were and were being acted upon, intermittent yellow fever epidemics created problems and Congress often failed to appropriate needed funds. During most periods of peace the forts deteriorated. National attention turned for a short time to Fort Pickens in the 1880s when Pickens became the prison for the Apache Chief Geronimo and some of his warriors and tribe who had been captured and expelled from the southwest. Following World War II, when technology had rendered the Pensacola forts useless for defense purposes, they were turned over to the Department of the Interior to become historical monuments.

*Guardians on the Gulf* is a short fact-book. Its value as a

roughly ten years. She was easily Florida's major tourist attraction during this period. She spent six months of every year in that charming community of Mandarin, but they were during her declining years, long after she had made her own deep impression on American life through *Uncle Tom's Cabin* and other books. By the time she was living in Florida, Mrs. Stowe was relatively unimportant to the mainstream of the biography. Another member of the Beecher family also lived in Florida. Harriet's brother, the Reverend Charles Beecher, was Florida Superintendent of Public Instruction, 1871-1873.

*Jacksonville, Florida*

FRANK G. SLAUGHTER

*History of Apopka and Northwest Orange County, Florida.* By Jerrell H. Shofner. (Apopka, FL: Apopka Historical Society, 1982. v, 357 pp. Preface, photographs, appendices, bibliography, index. \$30.00.)

Professor Shofner of Central Florida University, has written a readable, well-researched, small-town history. Undoubtedly, this was not an easy task, for Apopka has not been the scene of many dramatic or exciting historical events. Chartered in 1882, and located in the rolling high ground between the Wekiwa River and Lake Apopka, the town owes its origins and its moderate growth to the citrus industry and, particularly in the post-World War II era, to the foliage and vegetable industries located around the mucklands of Lake Apopka. Still, the area did not realize steady growth; in the mid-1880s Apopka had a population of almost 1,500, but by 1905 it had been reduced to 350. Its growth has been slow but continuous ever since. Finally, Apopka has been a rather non-descript town, with no evidences of unusual ethnic or cultural developments; it has hardly a building of architectural significance.

Despite the dearth of interesting material, Shofner tells a credible story of the town's ups and downs, its social life, and its founders and builders. But most importantly, he relates local history to such larger national developments as Progressivism, the Great Depression, and to World Wars I and II. Thus the reader gets a glimpse of how local people reacted to and were affected by

these national events: how Apopka citizens responded to prohibition in the 1920s and how the New Deal's relief agencies helped the city during the Depression. Shofner also deals with such social problems as segregation, but here he gingerly tiptoes through a thorny thicket making certain that he scratches only the surface. Blacks appear on stage occasionally but only as bit players. After all, this is a *history* of Apopka not a study of it. For his efforts, Shofner will undoubtedly receive the accolades of present and future citizens of northwest Orange County. The rest of us look forward to his return to more serious historical work.

*Rollins College*

JACK C. LANE

*Florida Frenzy*. By Harry Crews. (Gainesville: The University Presses of Florida, 1982. 138 pp. Essays, fiction, articles, acknowledgments. \$6.00 paper.)

Novelist Harry Crews offers a craggy face on the dustjackets of his growing shelf of books— symbolically the image of a tough ex-marine who grinds out blunt, lean, and searing he-man sentences. His stories authenticate the rugged portraiture. This sampling continues his proliferation of story-telling that totals ten novels, countless magazine articles, and a much-applauded and honest memoir, *A Childhood, the biography of a place*, ably drawn from his poverty years growing up as “shonuff pofolks” in South Georgia. In *Florida Frenzy*, Floridians and sunshine-state places sift through his southernness salted with earthy language and flavored with brawling, bartalk, pickup-truck sense of humor.

Collected from his published fiction and essays authored since 1969, these 138 pages stand as a quick-read preface to his larger works, sensitively touching such Florida themes as horseracing, cockfighting, running fox, a day at the dogfights, poaching gators, the “Gatornationals,” and the “Goat Day Olympics.” These essays are from *Esquire*, *Sport*, and *Playgirl* magazines and an earlier collection, *Blood and Grits*. Deftly applying the fictional brush in all these essays, Crews gives readers insight into his labeled fiction with excerpts from *Naked in Garden Hills* (from

reference is enlarged by useful chronological tables, fine illustrations, diagrams on fort structure, and a glossary of technical terms used to describe fortifications.

*University of Florida*

JOHN K. MAHON

*The Beechers: An American Family in the Nineteenth Century.*

By Milton Rugoff. (New York: Harper & Row, 1981. xvii, 653 pp. Acknowledgments, preface, notes and sources, selected bibliography, index, illustrations. \$19.95.)

"This country is inhabited by saints, sinners and Beechers," wrote Dr. Leonard Bacon, professor of theology at Yale and prominent Congregationalist minister, about 1863. This detailed and fine biography, product of a decade of research by the author, is the story of one of America's most famous, articulate, passionate, and influential families, covering a period of more than the hundred years of the title. The lives of the patriarch, Lyman Beecher, and his thirteen children form a broad canvas of the nineteenth century in the United States, drawn with painstaking detail by an accomplished biographer to portray a century of change—social, religious, even political—unequaled in American history.

In the words of the author: "The lives of Reverend Lyman Beecher, his three wives and eleven surviving children, reaching from the 1790s to 1900, from rural America to industrial America, illustrate in a hundred ways the transition from the last days of Puritanism to the beginning of the age of permissiveness. In two generations the Beechers emerged, along with many other Americans, from a God-centered, theology-ridden world concerned with the fate of man's eternal soul into a man-centered society occupied mainly with life on earth."

Lyman Beecher, father of the clan, entered Yale in 1793. Hewn literally from the rock of New England Calvinism and determined to become a minister of that faith, he was appalled to find the students at that second most famous educational institution "marching to a different drummer. Who needed God if man armed with reason could manage for himself." Not so, Lyman, however. "I was made for action," he said. "The Lord drove me

but I was ready." Graduating in 1797, followed by a year devoted to the study of theology, he began his ministry in 1798 at a small church in East Hampton, Long Island. From that small start, he marched through a series of New England churches, and even a venture into the "West" at Cincinnati, like an avenging sword, denouncing sin and begetting children in the bodies of two wives and marrying a third, a widow who had already produced six children but failed to birth a Beecher. Ironically enough, through his long and busy life— he lived to be eighty-eight— Lyman Beecher failed to indoctrinate successfully any of his brood with the stern tenets of Pilgrim Calvinism. In fact, his sons would no doubt reject out of hand today the television-spawned fundamentalist Christianity of the Electric Church; and his daughters, far from obeying the preachings of St. Paul concerning women, probably would be stumping the country in support of the ERA.

Considering the intelligence and drive of the Beecher offspring, it is ironic indeed that, although all made an indelible mark on their own century, only two are even remembered now. One was Harriet Beecher Stowe, the most famous novelist in the world in her time, and remembered best for one of her less important literary productions, the commercially successful *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. This book was to fan antislavery sentiment almost more than anything else at the time. Harriet's brother was Henry Ward Beecher, the most gifted platform and pulpit orator of the century, and the central figure in its most lurid seduction scandal.

Milton Rugoff's skillfully crafted biography of one of America's most gifted and energetic families is a remarkable picture of a young and growing country in every facet of its activities, except perhaps business. Between them the Beechers produced more than a hundred books, many by frail Harriet who might well be considered the "runt of the litter." In the process, the sermons and lectures of the Beechers— on religion, slavery, women's rights and suffrage, evolution and natural science— added a breadth to American life probably larger than that produced by any other family in any other century, enriching its intellectual and social life in every facet.

Mr. Rugoff's fascinating book is a fine example of biographical technique in its most vivid and readable form. It would perhaps be carping to wish the author had devoted more time to Harriet Beecher Stowe's residence at Mandarin-on-the-St. Johns of

Chapter 1), *The Hawk Is Dying* (Chapter 4), and "The Enthusiast."

He pokes a chauvinistic needle at feminist obsessions in a bitterly humorous short piece, "The Unfeminine Mystique," and is equally cynical with his disenchantment with the automobile in "The Car." Students of writing get a preview of Crews's technique and dedication to literature in the opening essay written for this book, "Teaching and Writing in the University," and he conveys his pleasant discovery of Gainesville in "Why I Live Where I Live." As for his perception of his adopted Florida, the sharecropper's son of the Great Depression and a former United States Marine offers a frenzy encompassing the tacky of late-night drinking adventures and the sublime of the true nature of the peninsula not too far in miles from his south Georgia upbringing. He peoples his imagination with characters hoisting beer cans, driving pickup trucks along wilderness roads, and challenging the wilderness of man's nature and braving uncertainties of the natural world.

Harry Crews is always good reading. He structures his stories in tight, explosive sentencings—an economy of words that is weighed in tension and expectation, triggering the reader's imagination. His *Frenzy*, if not hard history, certainly is a slice of Florida's realities. His classes in the University of Florida's English Department must be similarly to the point and humorously exciting,

*The Pensacola News- Journal*

JESSE EARLE BOWDEN

*Fountain of Discontent, The Trent Affair and Freedom of the Seas.* By Gordon H. Warren. (Boston: Northeastern University Press, 1981. xiv, 301 pp. Preface, list of illustrations, abbreviations, notes, bibliography, index. \$18.95.)

On November 8, 1861, Captain Charles Wilkes of the United States Navy stopped the British mail steamer *Trent* ten miles off Cuba, seized Confederate agents James Mason and John Slidell, and set off what Gordon H. Warren considers "the gravest foreign crisis of the Civil War" and "the most perilous development in Anglo-American relations between the War of 1812 and

the Venezuelan crisis of 1895" (p. 222). Though Wilkes had acted without authorization, Secretary of State William H. Seward hesitated to repudiate the act in view of Union frustrations over the war, and because a strong stand might convince the British that foreign intervention in behalf of the Confederacy would bring war with the Union. Indeed, the secretary of state had purposely engaged in a "war of nerves" designed to keep Britain's minister to Washington, Lord Lyons, uncertain about United States policy. Seward's tactics worked—almost too well. Lyons's dispatches turned into "diatribes" against Seward and led the London government to regard every dispute as a "prologue to war." Unable to distinguish between what Seward said and what he meant, Lyons helped to escalate "a naval incident into an emergency" (p. 69).

According to Warren, the central question in the *Trent* affair was not contraband but "unneutral service"—any act directly helping the enemy that did not fit the classification of either contraband or violation of blockade. Wilkes followed "convoluted reasoning" in arguing that Mason and Slidell constituted "the embodiment of dispatches." Contraband, Warren asserts, referred only to "things or chattels, not enemy persons or papers" (p. 195); besides, the determinant was the *destination* of the ship, not the article aboard. The *Trent's* cargo could not be contraband because the vessel was passing through neutral ports. Though the term "unneutral service" did not exist until the 1890s, the related term "unneutral conduct" had arisen in the English High Court of Admiralty in 1808. That same year British Admiralty jurist Sir William Scott ruled in the *Atalanta* case that hidden dispatches found after a search constituted an unneutral act. Wilkes therefore could have seized the *Trent* (detaining Mason and Slidell) on the basis of Mason's attempt to conceal Confederate dispatches; this action forfeited the ship's neutral status. Condemnation of the *Atalanta*, Warren believes, would have been precedent for the *Trent*, had Wilkes taken it to prize court.

Mason and Slidell nonetheless would have gone free, Warren declares, because prize courts could decree only against ship and cargo, not persons. Sanctity of diplomats, he shows, was fundamental to nearly all civilizations, *except* when the foreign ministers were passing through enemy territories. Yet Seward

muddled the situation by citing Scott in defense of Wilkes's conduct without noting that the English jurist accepted removal of emissaries *only* in areas under enemy control. Moreover, Wilkes had not referred to his personal copy of *Commentaries on American Law*, in which American legal authority James Kent asserted that an ambassador could pass "through territories of a third and friendly power, while upon his public mission." Though the Confederacy had not won recognition, Warren cites American legal theorists who argued that agents of either party in a civil war were "clothed with the powers and . . . the immunities of ministers" (p. 189). The Confederacy was a *de facto* government entitled to send agents through neutral waters on neutral ships.

Confusion did not end here, for without assistance from legal experts, Seward drafted an explanation for the release of Mason and Slidell that further illustrated his ill-acquaintance with international law. Britain's call for reparations, he declared, was justified on the basis of "an old honored and cherished American cause" – opposition to impressment. In a statement surprising to the ministry in London, Seward announced with satisfaction that the British had disavowed impressment. Seward's note, Warren asserts, was a "monument to illogic" (p. 184). Wilkes had not removed Mason and Slidell as American *nationals*, nor had he planned to force them into the American navy. Yet through this final twist of the law, Seward defused the danger of war while leaving the public impression that he had acted on the basis of traditional American maritime principles.

Warren's work is engaging, gracefully written, and thoroughly researched in American, British, Canadian, and French materials. It recounts a familiar story of drama, comedy, and near tragedy; it also details the obfuscated diplomatic maneuvering whereby each government managed to keep both peace and honor. Warren's study is a distinct contribution to the historiography of the Civil War.

*The University of Alabama*

HOWARD JONES

*Beware the People Weeping: Public Opinion and the Assassination of Abraham Lincoln.* By Thomas Reed Turner. (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1982. xvi, 265 pp. Preface, acknowledgments, illustrations, photographs, index. \$27.50.)

In an era of intriguing book titles, *Beware The People Weeping* from Herman Melville's *The Martyr* is definitely appropriate, since part of the thesis was that the great majority of the southern people "wept" with their northern brothers over the assassination of President Lincoln. The remainder of the thesis was that the four people executed (including Lewis Payne originally of Live Oak, Florida) and the four sent to the Dry Tortugas off the Florida coast were properly sentenced. This was, in essence, a "symbolic punishment" considering the "excited and violent nature of the times," occurring simultaneously with the ending of the Civil War.

Most Americans today believe, as their ancestors did over a hundred years ago, that all assassinations have been part of a giant conspiracy plot, especially those of Abraham Lincoln and John F. Kennedy. Why not? Both John Wilkes Booth and Lee Harvey Oswald were killed before they could be brought to trial. The author explodes this myth, that there was no conspiracy on the part of the Confederate leaders, although immediately after the assassination, the *New York Times* and Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton suggested the hanging of Jefferson Davis.

The guilt of Dr. Samuel Mudd has always been questioned, with such statements that if Booth had not broken his leg Mudd's name would not have been significant in history. The author concludes that Mudd was lying when he said he did not recognize Booth, since reliable witnesses testified that Mudd and Booth had been seen together in public on several occasions and that Booth "had spent a night under his roof." Recently President Carter refused to issue a final pardon sought by Dr. Mudd's grandsons.

One of the most interesting chapters is entitled "Voices from the Pulpit." Sermons have always been a gauge of public opinion although this source has been virtually ignored by previous writers on the assassination. He also feels, and this reviewer agrees, that ministers seem to grasp the events of the time much more

accurately than newspaper editors. The author concluded very succinctly that the clergy “out-radicaled the Radicals,” although there was no call from the pulpit for direct violence or unlawful acts.

The question of whether the conspirators might have received lighter sentences if they had been tried in a civil court rather than a military one will always be controversial. The fact that only John Surratt received a civil trial, and he was freed, is not significant. He was tried two years after the rest of the conspirators. He probably would have received the same sentence as they if tried in 1865. The defense lawyer for Lewis Payne tried to use the insanity plea, but was unsuccessful, primarily because it was a military court which allowed for wider rules of evidence,” and “provided the best means of revealing the full extent of the crime.”

Many features encompass this interesting book. The first chapter is an excellent bibliographical essay, which studies the major historical trends, although it should have been placed in the appendix. There is a fascinating pictorial section of the participants, courtesy of the Louis A. Warren Lincoln Library and Museum in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Other features include extensive and informative footnotes and a very helpful index.

My criticisms are minor, although must be mentioned. The author refers several times to the Knights of the Golden Circle but never describes this group, except that they were a “secret subversive group in the North.” I do not believe that they were so secret that the leaders— although he includes a picture of Bickley— and their activities could not be further discussed. The author quotes too many newspaper editors and not enough contemporaries of the Civil War period. There also appears to this reviewer that there were several names that could be eliminated from the narrative.

This book is an excellent addition to the literature concerning the Civil War era. Because of the continued popularity of Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War personalities, this subject will always attract readers. This book is also a must for those who like to read about controversy and conspiracy.

*Heritage Park, Largo*

**ROBERT C. HARRIS**

*Lee, The Last Years.* By Charles Bracelen Flood. (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1981. x, 308 pp. Acknowledgments, photographs, notes, index. \$14.95.)

Following Appomattox Lee and his invalid wife Mary retired to a small borrowed home in rural Virginia and, with a possible indictment for treason hanging over Lee's head, contemplated the possibility of living out the remaining years of their lives in peace. Their solitude was broken by a visitor who was wearing a loaned suit and traveling on borrowed money. He was the chairman of the board of directors of Washington College in Lexington, Virginia, who had come to say that Lee had been elected president of the college and he was inviting him to take command of his war-riven institution. Lee accepted and spent the last five years of his life as president of the modest college which today bears the name Washington and Lee University.

The directors of the college had correctly surmised that Lee's association with the college would attract financial support from throughout the South, and, indeed, the nation. However, the general was no mere figurehead fund-raiser; he took direct and immediate responsibility for every phase of the school, even to the point of knowing each student by name. Lee was not inexperienced in higher education, having served for three years as superintendent of West Point before the war. He took pride in his new profession, refusing to wear his military uniforms and declaring that as an educator he was making a far more important contribution to society than he had as a soldier. Washington College prospered under his leadership as he directed its curriculum into more modern, practical paths such as business, journalism, science, and modern languages.

Although he was one of the best known men in the country, Lee was not a public speaker or a public man. His most immediate contact with Reconstruction problems and politics was in Lexington, where he attempted to pacify relations between hot-headed southern students and the carpetbaggers and blacks in town. Lee's political opinions reached the nation through his wide correspondence, his testimony before the Joint Committee on Reconstruction, and his endorsement of the 1868 White Sulphur Springs Manifesto. He was a moderate who felt that the South would be restored to the Union most quickly and with the

least turmoil by cooperating with the federal government. He accepted the end of slavery and the defeat of the Confederacy, yet he opposed political and social equality for the freedmen and refused to apologize for waging war on the United States. By his example of conciliation, maintains the author in this book's central thesis, Lee "did more than any other American to heal the wounds between North and South during the tempestuous postwar period."

Charles Bracelen Flood's portrait of Lee and his family in their last years is charming, easily read, and full of anecdotal detail. The author depicts Lee as a real human being— for one thing, overly possessive of his daughters— and yet the leader of the Lost Cause emerges as the quintessential romantic hero. His faithful steed Traveler is one of the book's major characters. However, it must be conceded that Lee is a romantic figure, and to portray him otherwise would not be faithful to the way he was perceived in his own time and the way he has been revered ever since.

This book does not match the standards of scholarship and comprehensiveness of Douglas Southall Freeman's *R. E. Lee*, although it adds a few details which have come to light in recent years and reflects the changed attitude toward the Reconstruction period of modern revisionist historians. Another book on Lee's final years, *Lee After the War*, is Marshall Fishwick's more interpretative reflections on the meaning of the general's life.

*Flagler College*

THOMAS GRAHAM

*Promiseland: A Century of Life in a Negro Community.* By Elizabeth Rauh Bethel. (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1981. xvii, 329 pp. Preface, introduction, tables, epilogue, notes, essay on sources and methodology, index. \$16.95.)

During the Reconstruction era the state of South Carolina purchased land for resale to freedmen upon which they might find economic independence. Originally named Promised Land and popularly known as Promiseland, the community was begun in 1870 on the 2,742-acre Marshall plantation near Abbeville in the South Carolina Piedmont. The author considers the com-

munity “a microcosm of the many Negro communities where people have devised unique strategies for coping with their racially defined subordinate status” (p. 5). Its story encompasses racial oppression and discrimination, but focuses on the growth of a community through three generations— to each of which is devoted a separate part-in the context of a dynamic world.

Part one deals with the original settlers as they arrived from diverse backgrounds and began building their homes and hewing their sometimes meager livelihoods from the new land. The way the land was used and ultimately transmitted to the next generation is treated in a separate chapter. An excellent chapter describes the evolution of churches and schools and the growth of a community consciousness. The period from 1870 to about 1900 is covered by the first generation. Although economic security was continuously elusive, the inhabitants of Promiseland held tenaciously to their land and scratched their livings from it.

Part two encompasses the first quarter of the twentieth century during which the second generation held the land against a series of disasters including the destructive boll weevil. As some families divided their land into ever-diminishing parcels, their descendants looked to other means of livelihood. During the Great Migration of blacks from the South before and during World War I, sons and daughters of Promiseland went to New York, Chicago, Detroit, Atlanta, and other cities seeking better employment opportunities. But most of them returned periodically to visit, agreeing with Azzalie Moragne Jones of Atlanta that “it was good to live at Promised Land” (p. 119).

The third generation, which is the subject of part three, had perhaps the most difficult time of all. The Great Depression dealt severely with farmers everywhere and Promised Land inhabitants were no different. There is an excellent chapter on the impact of the New Deal programs on the local farmers and the community in general. In chapter ten the author treats the World War II careers of three local youths and the way their experiences influenced the postwar community. There is increasing attention to those who migrated to the cities, their lives there, and the continuing attachment they and their descendants felt to Promised Land. The book concludes with an overview of the changes which have come to Promised Land and its descendants

as seen through church life, local politics, education and the use of the land.

*Promiseland* is a useful, well-organized book based on substantial original research. It succeeds in fulfilling the author's promise of "a microcosm" of Negro life over a century of freedom. I have just three reservations. Written by a sociologist it has its share of jargon. Although it sounds more like a Korean place name, "nonkin" was discovered to mean people who are unrelated to each other (p. 52, *passim*). Furthermore, being a sociologist the author makes sweeping generalizations that no modestly informed historian would countenance. Piedmont South Carolina may well have been exhausted from cotton cultivation, but certainly not from "three centuries" of it (p. 3). And, finally, sociologist or no, any author should use proper English. Failing that, any editor should spot such phrases as "he derived with them" (p. 53), or "neither chose to sell their farms" (pp. 57-58). None of these are isolated examples. They are representative of general conditions.

*University of Central Florida*

JERRELL H. SHOFNER

*One South, An Ethnic Approach to Regional Culture.* By John Shelton Reed. (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1982. xiv, 200 pp. Preface and acknowledgments, introduction, figures and tables, afterword, bibliography, index. \$22.50.)

In this collection of thirteen essays the sociologist John Shelton Reed explores several aspects of contemporary southern society and culture: the South's distinctiveness as "a social-psychological entity," the effects of social change on southern culture, the quality of life in the region, the "southernness" of groups "at the margins" such as Jews, blacks, and the new middle class, the dynamics of southern violence, and the sociological approach to the study of regionalism. The essays were written over the course of the past decade and were first published as journal articles and contributions to symposia and other works. They are reprinted without significant change, except for the omission of the original documentation. The collection possesses coherence and symmetry.

The title of the book— and one of its major themes— echoes a comment made by Wilbur J. Cash in *The Mind of the South*: “If it can be said that there are many Souths, the fact remains that there is also one South.” This theme was adumbrated in Professor Reed’s first book, *The Enduring South: Subcultural Persistence in Mass Society* (1971), which showed that, despite the economic and demographic convergence of the South and other parts of the country, there are still notable cultural differences between white Southerners and other white Americans— in religious beliefs and practices, attitudes toward the family and the local community, and attitudes and behavior having to do with violence and the private use of force. Reed’s primary focus in these essays is the nature and the persistence of this cultural distinctiveness. The South, he writes, “is still a cultural and cognitive reality of considerable, and in some ways increasing, importance” (p. 3). Noting that white Southerners reveal a level of identification with their regional group higher than that of Roman Catholics and trade union members with theirs, and one that approaches that of blacks and Jews, he argues persuasively that white Southerners can be regarded as an ethnic group,

Professor Reed is well aware of the revolutionary changes that have swept over the region in the period since World War II. He understands that the South today is far different in its economic patterns, objective conditions, and general well-being from the South of the 1930s. Although this transformation has clearly diminished southern separateness and in some respects has blurred the sharpness of the southern identity, it is the continued manifestation of a distinctive southern culture, not the increasing Americanization of the South, that mainly concerns Reed. Nor does he give much attention to variation within the South or to conflict among its constituent groups. There is some danger, he suggests, that social scientists and other interpreters will exaggerate the degree of homogeneity, uniformity, and blandness in modern American life, and in any case he finds the other side of the coin more interesting and challenging. The American South, he concludes, shows few signs of disappearing anytime soon: “The South has remained the South without slavery, without political independence, without one-party politics, without

*de jure* segregation, without an agrarian economy— without all manner of characteristics that were said to be essential” (p. 188).

The publication of this book is a pleasant reminder that there are able sociologists, in the tradition of Howard W. Odum and Rupert B. Vance, seriously engaged in the study of the South and the role of regionalism in the United States. Reed himself asserts that study of southern culture can provide sociologists with an important basis for group formation in the national society. Students of southern history, including its state and local dimensions, will find this volume interesting and suggestive. The essays are not historical in the sense that they deal with change over time or with the evolution of institutions, processes, or ideas. But the author is sensitive to the force of history in a society's culture, and many of his concepts and ideas about the nature of association, ethnicity, minority groups, and regional culture are illuminating and useful. In “The Heart of Dixie: An Essay in Folk Geography,” for example, he contends that for sociological purposes the South can best be defined “by locating Southerners, not the other way around” (p. 6). Reed also writes well and with engaging wit, as is illustrated in essay titles like “Shalom, Y’All: Jewish Southerners,” “Plastic-Wrapped Crackers: Southern Culture and Social Change,” and “Summertime and the Livin’ is Easy: Quality of Life in the South.” It is not only instructive to read John Shelton Reed, it is also fun.

*Vanderbilt University*

DEWEY W. GRANTHAM

*Holding on to the Land and the Lord: Kinship, Ritual, Land Tenure, and Social Policy in the Rural South.* Edited by Robert L. Hall and Carol B. Stack. (Athens: The University of Georgia Press, 1982. viii, 164 pp. Preface, illustrations, the contributors, index. \$12.00.)

This volume contains revised versions of eleven papers that were presented at the fifteenth annual meeting of the Southern Anthropological Society, in Louisville, in March 1980. Additionally, there are a preface and an introduction by Robert L. Hall and Carol B. Stack and two and one-half pages of commentary by anthropologist James L. Peacock of the University of

North Carolina. Though several of the contributors have well-known scholarly reputations, a majority are relatively unknown; four were graduate students when the book went to press. Three of the authors are primarily historians.

Each of ten essays is based on fieldwork in a particular rural locality— five communities in North Carolina and one apiece in South Carolina, Kentucky, Alabama, Florida, and Mississippi; the eleventh provides a somewhat generalized assessment of land-ownership, families, and public policy in southern Appalachia (and, indeed, five of the pieces are specifically concerned with Appalachia and the North Carolina Piedmont). Four articles are grouped under the rubric “Kinship in a Political Context,” four under the heading “The Dynamics of Ritual and Conversion,” and three under “Land Tenure and Social Problems.”

The editors’ efforts to identify common themes and implications are disappointing; the subject communities are atypical, and the craftsmanship is drastically uneven. But several of the essays do rate as useful contributions. In this category, the reviewer feels, are Sydney Nathans’s “Fortress Without Walls: A Black Community after Slavery” (a study of a black progeny that derived from 109 slaves who were moved in 1844 by their master, Paul Cameron, from a plantation in North Carolina to a plantation in Alabama); Charles Williams’s authoritative, first-hand account of “The Conversion Ritual in a Rural Black Baptist Church”; B. Lisa Gröger’s “Peasants and Policy: Comparative Perspectives on Aging,” an analysis of the effects of public policies on the elderly in a rural community in France and a rural community in North Carolina; and Steven Petrow’s workmanlike study of “The Last of the Tenant Farmers in the Old New South: A Case Study of Tenancy in Franklin County, North Carolina.”

Yet the book as a whole will not be of wide interest to historians, social scientists, or general readers.

*University of Texas at El Paso*

KENNETH K. BAILEY

*The Selling of the South, The Southern Crusade for Industrial Development, 1936-1980.* By James C. Cobb. (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1982. xii, 293 pp. Acknowledgments, introduction, bibliography, index. \$16.95.)

Ever since Henry Grady's New South crusade of the post-Reconstruction era southern businessmen and boosters have been engaged in selling the potentiality of their region to outside investors. The story is a familiar one: emphasize the region's raw materials, its moderate climate, and especially its surplus of labor, ready and willing to work for low wages. These regional differences would make the South more attractive for new plant investment than the industrial regions of the North. Although these general parameters of southern industrial development are agonizingly apparent in the history of the region to World War II, what James C. Cobb has done in *The Selling of the South* is demonstrate how these traditional themes were implemented in the more sophisticated market environment of the post-war period.

Beginning with Mississippi Governor Hugh White's Balance Agriculture with Industry (BAWI) program of 1936, southern governors, legislators, and development officials began to market industrial revenue bonds, which in essence gave industrialists an entree to new southern plants with little or no initial capital investment. This program was in addition to time-honored techniques such as elimination or reduction of property, sales, and income taxes. In their enthusiasm to attract and keep these industries Southerners would go to absurd lengths. The community fathers never incorporated Kannapolis, North Carolina, thereby allowing Cannon Mills to avoid city taxation. The state legislature of South Carolina passed a special bill raising the duty-free limit on personal goods brought into the country so that British industrial managers could stock their cellars with Europe's finest wines. Cobb, in analyzing such activity, notes that much of it is due to competition between southern communities for factories. This is not to say that there was no North-South conflict. Battles ranging from the tax-free nature of industrial revenue bonds to clean air acts have made it clear that the economic war between the states continues.

Cobb's major theme, which he argues cogently against the

industrial boosters' opinion polls, is that the post-World War II industrial development of the South was erected on the backs of pliable workers willing to accept low wages. Southern businessmen went out to "buy a payroll" for their communities; but it was usually one based on "volume" (labor intensive, low-wage industries) rather than "quality" (high-technology, high-salaried concerns). Although this was in part due to a failure to understand the "multiplier effect" as monies were disbursed throughout a community, Cobb argues for an additional interpretation. In what will be the most debated point of his work, Cobb agrees with the sociological school which has developed the "Prussian road" to describe the South's industrial development. According to this theory, conservative agricultural interests only allowed industrial development to gain ground when they were assured of not losing influence. The irony is that in recent years southern communities have dissuaded unionized industries (willing to have higher-paid unionized workers in their southern plants) from coming to an area for fear that this would lead to higher wages in other area companies. Meanwhile, some Japanese industrialists were building southern plants because labor costs were lower than in Japan.

This general theme and its attendant arguments suffer somewhat in the presentation of *The Selling of the South*. Although the general chapter organization is good, there is a lack of cohesion and smooth transition within chapters. There are minor problems which, in sum, are detrimental to the finished product: the book could have been much improved with a judicious editing which would have removed cliches, colloquial expressions, and other irritants. Identification of the various roles of major characters, ranging from Ralph McGill, editor of the *Atlanta Constitution*, to Luther Hodges, United States Secretary of Commerce, is done either belatedly or not at all. Footnotes (let us pause to congratulate LSU Press on continuing this almost extinct form) are under-utilized for explanatory material.

These carpings aside, the only substantive criticism of *The Selling of the South* is that Cobb's scope is too broad for his supporting documentation. He relies heavily on the state archives of the southeast. The trans-Mississippi west is almost totally ignored, although the book touches on all the ex-Confederate states plus Kentucky and Oklahoma. After the introductory

chapter on Mississippi, the book concentrates on the transformation of the traditional textile states (the Carolinas, Georgia, Alabama, and Tennessee), although it does deal adequately with Florida. One should keep in mind in illuminating such shortcomings that this is not only Cobb's first work but also the first on this subject by any historian. Therefore, it is hoped that he and others will continue with studies of the themes presented in this book.

In the final analysis, James C. Cobb is a pathfinder. He is deftly moving into the uncharted field of post-World War II socio-economic developments. He is to be commended for giving us not only a good overview of "the southern crusade for industrial development, 1936-1980" but also providing us with a good understanding of wider issues on the southern economic scene. Not only will historians benefit from a study of this book, but every politician in the South should have his/her consciousness—and possibly conscience—raised by such an experience.

*Mississippi College*

EDWARD N. AKIN

*Live Oaking, Southern Timber for Tall Ships.* By Virginia Steele Wood. (Boston: Northeastern University Press, 1981. xi, 206 pp. Preface, illustrations, photographs, drawings, appendix, notes, bibliography, picture credits, acknowledgments, index. \$21.95.)

Among the most majestic of nature's creations is the live oak tree, a species of hardwood found along the southeastern coast from Virginia to Texas and throughout the Florida peninsula. The tree may grow to massive proportions, attaining a crown span of 150 feet and boasting limbs of heavy, dense wood, large in diameter, that often bow to rest upon the ground under the burden of their weight. The live oak possesses unusual properties that colonial shipbuilders discovered to be highly useful. The wood has a durability, tensile strength, and resistance to rot virtually unequalled in the forests of Europe and America. Moreover, the tree's gnarled limbs were admirably designed by nature to fit the curved parts of a ship's structure.

In the early years of independence, some American leaders,

foreseeing the economic and military importance of developing the country's maritime capabilities, looked upon the live oak as a valuable national resource. The tree's protection became a matter of executive concern, and it served as the object for early federal experiments in land management and conservation of natural resources. During the administration of John Quincy Adams, the government established a live oak farm on Santa Rosa Island near Pensacola to insure future supplies of the wood. This project was scuttled by Adams's successor.

By the early nineteenth century many stands of live oak in the United States had already disappeared, often pirated away for sale to European nations, whose own hardwood forests were exhausted. Only the passing of the wooden ship saved the live oak from near certain extinction. Meanwhile, it had occupied a fascinating and many-sided place in the political, economic, and social history of the nation. This is an excellent analysis of live oaking, the obvious result of years of research, describing the early attempts to save and conserve the trees.

As many as sixty acres of oaks were needed to build one seventy-four gun ship-of-the-line in the Revolutionary War period. Procuring the wood and fashioning it into great ships was a difficult and complex task, fraught with political decision, economic risk, and human struggle. Extracting the lumber from its southern preserves was a hard and dangerous job. One of the great virtues of this informative and entertaining book is its use of "folk" history to round out the narrative, focusing on life in the live oak camps, where men were forced frequently to endure a treacherous climate, endless hordes of mosquitoes and sand flies, alligators and moccasins, poor diet, killing medicines, and unrelieved boredom and monotony. The camps were populated by woodsmen, shipwrights, cooks, oxen drivers, and laborers usually recruited in New England port towns and transported South.

Until recently, historians have tended to ignore the pursuits of such people. Fortunately, writers like Mrs. Wood are now utilizing sources, including oral accounts, that reveal the details of existence among ordinary working-class people. The result here makes for absorbing reading and useful history. *Live Oaking* offers a fresh approach to an important national industry and to

the writing of economic history, an approach whose appeal is strengthened by imaginative research and a good narrative style.

The book is illustrated with transcripts of documents, maps, early photographs, drawings, and sketches that show details of tools, parts of ships, and the techniques of crafts employed in their building. Occasional sidebars, a device usually reserved for textbooks, are used to good effect and, like the illustrations, add to the enjoyment and understanding of the subject. This is an excellent study that gives the live oak a deserved place in American social and maritime history. The magnificent tree deserves no less.

*Historic St. Augustine Preservation Board* WILLIAM R. ADAMS

*Black Novelists and the Southern Literary Tradition.* By Ladell Payne. (Athens: The University of Georgia Press, 1981. x, 117 pp. Acknowledgments, notes, index. \$11 .00.)

As Ladell Payne points out, it has been the habit of students of American literature to view works by blacks as a separate category of writing and to see these works as discrete from the literature of that particular region where, even now, a majority of black Americans identify their roots— the South. His thesis, on the basis of which he received a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities, is that this historical separation is an artificial one, that the writing of black Southerners is firmly within the southern literary tradition.

Payne identifies as characteristic of southern writing the themes of loss of innocence and the finding of the self; obsession with time and the interconnectedness of past and present; the assertion of moral purpose in the universe; and the romantic agrarian vision. He identifies as particularly southern devices Gothicism and grotesquerie and the lyrical voice that is the “response to an oral tradition of oratory and rhetoric.” He finds these themes and devices in abundance in the work of the five black novelists he examines.

Rather than attempting to address all literary forms, Payne concentrates on the novel. Choosing not to try to place every

black southern novelist in the southern literary vein, he chooses five writers who represent five different eras and anticipates reader objections to his choices by stating "I will give my reasons for considering Ellison a southerner, Toomer a black, and *Cane* a novel." Charles Waddell Chesnutt, James Weldon Johnson, and Richard Wright complete the list.

Within these limited parameters, Payne presents strong arguments for his thesis, showing that Chesnutt was as enamored of Sir Walter Scott as any of his white literary contemporaries in the South and that James Weldon Johnson's use of folk elements and Ralph Ellison's use of ancestors to define the self and discover meaning in the present place them on a level with Twain and Faulkner as uniquely southern writers. He shows that there is no clearer use of Gothic symbolism, violence, and the grotesque than in Wright's *Native Son* and avers that Jean Toomer was employing the southern Gothic device ten years before Faulkner supposedly invented it.

In the section on Richard Wright, Payne explores his theory that Wright was strongly influenced by the writing of Thomas Wolfe, although Wright never publicly credited Wolfe as a literary mentor. Through comparisons, sometimes line by line, of passages from the two men's work, Payne does build a strong case. Initially, I questioned the appropriateness of this discussion in the context of Payne's larger thesis, but by quoting passages by both writers on their alienation from the South Payne effectively assails one traditional excuse for treating black literature as a separate entity. The argument has been that since blacks were segregated in southern society and thus alienated from it, their literature could not be informed by southern culture in the same way as that of white writers. But the great white southern writers have also experienced alienation from the South; otherwise, they would not have been able to subject it to such keen observation. Even those who did not leave, as Wolfe did, experienced a sense of alienation. Payne quotes Louis D. Rubin, in an essay titled "The South and the Faraway Country": "One cannot be mentally detached from the southern community while physically a part of it, and be fully a member of that community." By the same token, a Southerner, black or white, carries the South with him wherever he goes. As Richard Wright wrote in *Black Boy*, "Yet, deep down, I knew that I could never really leave the South,

for my feelings had already been formed by the South, for there had been slowly instilled into my personality and consciousness, black though I was, the culture of the South.”

*University of Florida*

JIM HASKINS

*The Afro-American Periodical Press, 1839-1909.* By Penelope L. Bullock. (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1981. xiv, 330 pp. Preface, acknowledgments, illustrations, appendices, notes, index. \$25.00.)

*Afro-American History: Sources for Research.* Edited by Robert L. Clarke. (Washington: Howard University Press, 1981. xviii, 236 pp. Preface, introduction, illustrations, appendix, biographical sketches of contributors, index. \$17.50.)

“In order to assert and maintain their rank as men black people in the United States must speak for themselves; no outside tongue, however gifted with eloquence, can tell their story; no outside eye, however penetrating, can see their wants.” This editorial statement in the *Anglo-American Magazine* (1859) was shared by many other black Americans. As a result between 1838 and 1909 ninety-seven black magazines were established.

Two black periodicals, *Mirror of Liberty* and *National Reformer* appeared in 1838. Nine more, all of which opposed slavery and advocated emancipation, were founded before and during the Civil War. When a Union victory convinced many blacks that citizenship and equality would become realities the Afro-American press became dormant.

The expectation of a new society was soon destroyed. Blacks were segregated, subordinated, and relegated to second-class citizenship. Once again the black press became active. Black journals protested injustices, agitated for equality, offered solutions to racial problems, supported black institutions, chronicled black achievements, and provided a vehicle for literary talent. Unfortunately longevity was not characteristic of black journals. Throughout the nineteenth century the black press remained one with a cause but little capital. Of the eighty-five titles published between 1880 and 1909, forty-five failed in their first

or second year. Notes in contemporary sources are the only evidence that some of these journals ever existed. No issues have survived. Complete files are unavailable even for many of the titles that lasted longer. Nevertheless, as Professor Bullock has demonstrated, the black periodical press is significant for the study of American history.

J. Max Barber editor of *Voice of the Negro* wrote of his journal: "We want it to be more than a mere magazine. We expect to make of it current and sociological history so accurately given and so vividly portrayed that it will become a kind of documentation for the coming generations." While not all editors met Barber's high standards, the black press is a rich source for the study of black life and thought. Professor Bullock had rendered a great service to scholars by including appendices, which gives pertinent information about the periodicals. She provides a finding list citing selected libraries where titles are currently available, a chronology furnishing the year and place of the initial issue of each publication, and a geographical list indicating the states and cities in which the periodicals were published. The book is made even more valuable by Professor Bullock's sometimes excellent biographical sketches of many of the editors. This interesting, well-written volume deserves a place in all research libraries.

*Afro-American History: Sources for Research* is the edited record of the Conference on Federal Archives as Sources for Research on Afro-Americans, held June 4-5, 1973. The purpose of the conference was to introduce researchers to materials available in the National Archives and to stimulate research on Afro-Americans. The conference probably failed on both counts. The proceedings were not published for eight years, and many of the papers, while intriguing, were only obliquely related to the archives. Fortunately James Walker, "Federal Appointment Papers and Black History," Preston E. Amos, "Military Records for NonMilitary History," and Barry A. Crouch, "Freedmen's Bureau Records: Texas, a Case Study" focused more closely on sources.

Still, given the wealth of materials in the archives and the demonstrated ability of the participants, the conference proceedings are somewhat disappointing. This should have been, but is not, a significant research guide. The fault may lie with

the conference method, which is perhaps an inadequate vehicle for accomplishing the above stated goals.

*Florida State University*

JOE M. RICHARDSON

## BOOK NOTES

William S. Coker and Hazel P. Coker compiled *The Siege of Mobile, 1780, in Maps*. It was published by the Perdido Bay Press, Pensacola, as Volume IX in its Spanish Borderlands Series. *The Siege of Mobile* includes data on troop strength, military units, ships, casualties, and prisoners of war. With the outbreak of war between Spain and Britain in 1779, Governor Bernardo de Gálvez of Spanish Louisiana attacked and captured Fort Bute at Manchak and the fort at Baton Rouge. His next target was Mobile which is the focus of this study. The convoy, with 754 troops aboard, embarked from New Orleans on January 14, 1780. Two months later, March 14, 1780, the English flag was lowered at Fort Charlotte, and Captain Elias Durnford surrendered his force to Gálvez. The Spanish had achieved their second objective. Only Pensacola remained before Spain would control all of the lower Mississippi Valley and West Florida, and within a year that obstacle would be overcome. *The Siege of Mobile* includes a brief history of the Mobile forts covering the period 1702-1813, a bibliography, and forty-six maps. The volume sells for \$12.95. This is a valuable companion volume to the earlier work of the Cokers, *The Siege of Pensacola, 1781, in Maps*, which was also published by the Perdido Bay Press.

*Alonso de Posada Report, 1686: A Description of the Area of the Present Southern United States in the Seventeenth Century* was translated and edited by Alfred Barnaby Thomas. It is Volume IV in the Spanish Borderlands Series published by Perdido Bay Press of Pensacola. The *Report* covers the entire Spanish Borderlands from the Colorado River in Arizona to the Atlantic Ocean. The *Report* provides valuable data on geography, place-names, and Indians and their tribal relationships. Data on the controversy between Spain and France over control of the Gulf of Mexico, which consumed the energies and treasure of those two powers for more than a century, is also included in the *Report*. Dr. Thomas has provided editorial notes with each of the Posada documents with needed information on geography and Indian groups. Included also are an historical introduction, bibliography, index, and a map. The price is \$8.95.

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*From Wilderness to Metropolis, The History and Architecture of Dade County (1825-1940)* is the result of the four years (1977-1981) of work by dozens of volunteers who photographed and documented south Florida's historic architecture. The Metropolitan Dade County Office of Community and Economic Development, Historic Preservation Division, directed the research and writing. The text, written by Ivan Rodriguez, Margot Ammidown, and Bogue Wallin, makes the book both readable and usable for professional scholars and interested laypersons. The design is by Woody Vonracek. *From Wilderness to Metropolis* is the first book to be devoted to the history of architecture in Dade County, and it contains information about the various architectural styles that have been utilized throughout south Florida, and indeed much of the rest of the state. The emphasis is on the twentieth century, although there is information on the period from 1825 to World War II. The black and white photographs are excellent; many are being reproduced for the first time. There are photographs, of course, of the grand houses, including Al Capone's on Palm Island, but a variety of others are also included. The windmill at Carl Fisher's Roman Pools; the Spanish Village built in 1925 by Roney as an artist colony; the Seminole Lodge which doubled as a police station; "Alamo," the house that Glenn Curtiss built in Miami Springs for his mother; the Moorish-style houses in Opa-Locka; and the Art Deco buildings at Miami Beach are all pictured. There are also photographs of historic properties like the Cape Florida lighthouse, the Biscayne House of Refuge, the Barnacle, the Maude Seibold Black House, and the Wagner House. Special attention is paid to Vizcaya and the Freedom Tower, and there are pictures and text on hotels, gas stations, commercial and public buildings, religious structures, movie theaters, and schools. Tribute is paid to the architects who designed these buildings. There is a section describing architectural styles, a selected list of architects and their work, a selected list of significant sites, and a glossary and bibliography. *From Wilderness to Metropolis* is available through Banyan Books, Miami, and it sells for \$10.95.

*The People of Camden County, Georgia, A Finding Index Prior to 1850* was compiled by Shirley Joiner Thompson. Because of its proximity, Camden County's history and that of East

Florida are intermingled. The movement of people— black and white— between the two areas dates to the time of the American Revolution. Thousands of loyalists, mainly from Georgia and the Carolinas, moved into East Florida after 1778. Many believed that their stay would be brief, and that they would be able to return to their homes as soon as England had quashed the rebellion. A few did move back after 1783, and others elected to remain in East Florida after the territory was retroceded to Spain. Many of the refugees, however, sailed from St. Augustine and St. Marys, Georgia, to the Bahamas, and others went by transport back to England. Mrs. Thompson has searched through official records— censuses, marriages, land lotteries, land grants, head rights and bounty grants, English crown grants, slaveowner affidavits, among others— and has compiled a list of Camden County residents. Her lists reveal that there were 423 persons with the same names and 142 with same surnames living in East Florida. Her second volume, *The People of East Florida During The Revolutionary War-War of 1812 Period* is a supplement to *The People of Camden County, Georgia*. Both of her studies are important, both to historians and genealogists working in the period from the Revolution to about 1850. Each volume sells for \$20.00, and they may be ordered from Mrs. Thompson, 3505 Washingtonian Street, Jacksonville, Florida 32205. Her address after August 1983 will be R.F.D. 1, Box 157-B, Waynesville, GA 31556.

*Tampa, Yesterday, Today, & Tomorrow* is an illustrated history by Michael Bane and Mary Ellen Moore. Included is a 1846 sketch of Fort Brooke and a number of photographs of Tampa and Ybor City dating to the 1880s. There are also several color illustrations. Among the topics covered are cigar manufacturing, Henry Bradley Plant's operations, transportation, sports, industrial development, and the main airport complex. Attention is given to the many ethnic and racial groups that make up Tampa's population. There are short introductions by Tony Pizzo and Mayor Bob Martinez. There are also brief histories of important businesses located in Tampa. *Tampa* was published by Mishler and King Publishing, 4757 Distribution Drive, Tampa, Florida 33605. Their paperback edition sells for \$12.95; the hardback edition, \$19.95.

Stereoscopic photography was a popular and educational pastime in the nineteenth century. Travelers photographed people and scenes wherever they went. The years after the Civil War saw a floodtide of tourists, many with cameras, arriving in Florida. Most of them came by the way of Jacksonville. They took pictures and wrote about their travels in letters and for publication in northern newspapers. *Historic Florida, A Closer Look at the Photographs of a Century Ago in Three-Dimensional Realism*, by Clement Slade, presents a glimpse of Florida in the closing decades of the nineteenth century. It includes photographs of Jacksonville, the St. Johns River lighthouses taken in 1833 and 1858, the settlements along the St. Johns River, and St. Augustine. Among the pictures are early views of Flagler's St. Augustine hotels— the Ponce de Leon, Villa Zorayda, and the Hotel Alcazar— and the Indian prisoners who were brought to St. Augustine from Fort Sill in 1875. The text is by D. Webster Dixon who traveled in Florida in 1875, and who wrote a series of stories for *The Messenger*, his paper in St. Albans, Vermont. His readers were fascinated with his "comprehensive, trustworthy, and altogether reliable correspondence from that land of alligators, fleas, and flowers." A small prismatic viewer for the stereoscopic pictures is included with the volume. Published by The Kellersberger Fund of the South Brevard Historical Society, Inc., it is Volume XI in the Society's Local History Series. *Historic Florida* sells for \$6.95. Order from the Fund, Box 5847, FIT, Melbourne, FL 32901.

*Melbourne, A Century of Memories* is a collection of historical articles written by Weona Cleveland which appeared in the *Melbourne Times*. In addition, there is a "Chronology of Old Melbourne," by Harry C. Goode, Sr.; "Vignettes of Eau Gallie As It Used To Be," by W. Lansing Gleason (grandson of William H. Gleason); and "Melbourne History, 1969-1980," by Joe Wickham. Mrs. Cleveland gathered information for her feature articles by interviewing people in the community and by examining old records. Her book also includes many photographs. It was published by the Melbourne Area Chamber of Commerce Centennial Committee, and it may be ordered from their office. The paperback edition sells for \$4.00, plus a \$1.00 charge for mailing.

*Boca Grande, A Series of Historical Essays* is by Charles Dana Gibson, a Master Mariner and author of articles on maritime history and American fisheries. His study begins with an examination of the early Indian settlements in the area, establishment of the fishing communities, and Cayo Costa Island, Gasparilla Island, and Useppa. The history of Boca Grande, originally written by Anthony B. Arnold of the American Agricultural Chemical Company, is included, together with a study of government lands from the sixteenth century to the 1940s, and information on Gasparilla Island, Puerto De Boca Grande, and the interior waterways of Gasparilla Island. There are photographs and charts and data extracted from the federal census, lighthouse service records, and other primary and secondary sources. The maps and the index make this a useful volume. It was printed by Great Outdoors Publishing Company. It may also be ordered from the author, Box 840, Boca Grande, FL 33921. The price is \$12.95, plus \$1.00 for postage and handling.

*Centennial of First Presbyterian Church, DeLand, Florida, 1882-1982* is the history of still another important DeLand church. Religious services were held in that area as early as 1877. As settlers began arriving denominational churches were organized, the first in 1880. The Methodist secured a building in 1880, and the Baptists organized that same year with thirteen members. The Presbyterians organized two years later, July 7, 1882, in a private home on East Ridge Avenue. There were twenty-four charter members. There was an obvious need for a building, and a church was completed and dedicated in 1890. The church continued its growth, and a century later it has become one of the largest and most influential religious bodies in DeLand. This centennial history was written by Ethel Kinum. It sells for \$5.00, and copies may be ordered from First Presbyterian Church, 724 North Woodland Blvd., DeLand, Florida 32720.

*Our Heritage: The History of St. Barnabas Episcopal Church* traces the history of the church from its founding in DeLand in 1882 to the present. It was written by Blanche Mercer Fearington, and it may be ordered from the author, Box 343, DeLand, Florida 32720. The price is \$4.85. Because the history of St. Barnabas is

so intertwined with that of DeLand, it is as much a community as a church history. *Our Heritage* contains brief descriptions of organizations within the church, and a list of gifts and memorials beginning with the donation of the building site by John and Clara Rich in 1883. Pictures, a selected bibliography, and an index are included.

*Alabama Past Leaders*, is a compilation by Henry S. Marks and Marsha Kass Marks of deceased Alabamians who in their lifetime made significant contributions to the economic, political, social, educational, religious, military, and philanthropic life of the state. It includes many persons who became nationally prominent, such as Arthur P. Bagby, United States minister to Russia; Walter D. Bellingrath, who created the famed Bellingrath Gardens near Mobile; Lieutenant General Robert Lee Bullard, World War I hero; Martin Luther King, Jr.; and Booker T. Washington. An amazing array of artists, writers, theatrical performers, and builders claimed Alabama as home. Listed in *Alabama Past Leaders* are Tallulah Bankhead, James Dakin, the architect; and writers James Agee, Octavus Roy Cohen, Zella Fitzgerald, Frank Owsley, and Walter Lynwood Fleming. Sports figures, Indian chiefs and traders, musicians, and dozens of business and professional people are included. A number have Florida roots. The material for the biographical sketches mainly comes from secondary sources, but they provide an easy-to-use informational guide. Published by Strode Publishers, 720 Church Street, N.W., Huntsville, AL the volume sells for \$24.95.

*Seeing Historic Alabama, Fifteen Guided Tours* was compiled by Virginia Van Der Veer Hamilton of the University of Alabama in Birmingham. It is organized as an automobile touring guide. The thirty maps, 176 illustrations, and glossary of architectural terms make this a very usable guide. Included are descriptions and locations of house and historical museums, covered bridges, battlefields and forts, and Indian settlements, and a listing of historical festivals and dramatic productions, house tours, and pilgrimages. Published by the University of Alabama Press, it sells for \$9.50, paperback.

*Plantation Homes of Louisiana and the Natchez Area* is a volume filled with beautiful colored photographs. Both the photographs and the text are the work of David King Gleason. Four geographic areas are covered: New Orleans and the Lower Mississippi; Along the Bayous; Cane River Country and North Louisiana; and the Natchez Area and Downriver. Some of the houses pictured are in ruins, but many have been carefully restored. Most are private homes and are open for public showing only on special occasions. There are pictures of the great houses with their lovely gardens, also photographs of slave cabins, river scenes, and the traditional Christmas bonfire. William R. Brockway has provided a "Note on the Architecture." Published by Louisiana State University Press, this handsome book sells for \$29.95.

"*Mr. Anonymous,*" *Robert W. Woodruff of Coca-Cola* is a biography of the man who played a major role in the economic, political, and educational history of twentieth-century Georgia. His philanthropy was legendary, particularly toward Emory University. This biography, which includes many illustrations, was written by Charles Elliott. It was published by Cherokee Publishing Company, Atlanta, and sells for \$14.95.