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## Book Reviews

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## BOOK REVIEWS

*Jackson County, Florida— A History.* By Jerrell H. Shofner. (Marianna: Jackson County Heritage Association, 1985. 627 pp. Acknowledgments, illustrations, appendix, census, notes, bibliography. \$27.75.)

With this much needed history of Jackson County, Jerrell Shofner has once again established his mastery of local history and demonstrated its relevance to state, regional, and national affairs. His exhaustively researched book contains twenty-four chapters. The Jackson County Heritage Association and Mrs. Violet N. McLendon and other patrons have every right to be proud of the product that they have sponsored.

Utilizing available secondary sources and an abundance of primary materials (many of them used for the first time), Professor Shofner has crafted a balanced study. In the first ten chapters he traces the county's development from pre-history to 1860. A chapter on the Civil War, another on Reconstruction, and four more on the last half of the nineteenth century bring him into the twentieth century, a period often neglected in county histories. He deftly brings the story up to the present. Each chapter is footnoted, marked by careful scholarship, and concisely written. The author deals with his subject both topically and chronologically and neglects no area of significance: politics and politicians, transportation and communication, agriculture, slavery, wars (Indian, Civil, and international), religion, social affairs, economics— all receive attention.

The on-going treatment of agriculture is illustrative of the book's contributions. The county's early farming, the development of a cotton culture and society and its commercial outlet at the port of Apalachicola are treated with fresh insights. The shift in agriculture from its slave-based labor to sharecropping and the crop lien system in the post-war years is told analytically but with compassion. The efforts of the Farmers' Alliance to achieve equity and the failure of the abortive Populist revolt are given local emphasis. With the harsh but accurate "agribusiness" as the operative word, Professor Shofner goes beyond World War II to show the decline of cotton and the advance of livestock, dairying, peanuts, soybeans, corn, timber, and nurseries.

He concludes that “farming is likely to be the backbone of the Jackson County economy for some time to come” (p. 564).

Space limitations prevent giving the book the extended review it deserves. It is attractively packaged with easy to read type, and there are few typographical errors. The dust jacket, pen and ink drawings by Jane Ludlum Pender, is fine, but the faint pink color takes away from its visual effectiveness. A second printing of the dust jacket should be done and a darker color used to give full display of Pender’s obvious talent.

Anyone, from casual readers to scholars, can use this book with profit. It has no charts, and no graphs, but it does have readability, and it establishes a strong case that narrative history still lives. The author does not hesitate to interpret history, but he is not condemnatory. One reads the book and is convinced that Jerrell Shofner likes and respects all those Jackson countians— the rogues as well as the heroes.

*Florida State University*

WILLIAM WARREN ROGERS

*The Lines of Vizcaya: Annals of a Great House.* By Kathryn Chapman Harwood. (Miami: Banyan Books, Inc., 1985. xx, 316 pp. Foreword, acknowledgments, introduction, bibliography, index. \$17.95.)

Nothing is quite so appealing to the researcher as the discovery of that which was lost, and the piecing together of a puzzle in order to reconstruct the story of another time. Such a discovery, precious documents relating to the building of Vizcaya, came to light some twenty years ago in a hidden vault of a farm village building on the property. This wealth of archival material has enabled Kathryn Chapman Harwood to tell a fascinating tale.

When James Deering, former vice-president of International Harvester decided to build a winter home in Miami in 1910, he had something comfortable but unpretentious in mind. That Vizcaya became the grand and classical Italian villa designed in the Renaissance manner was the result of the other “lives” involved in the conceptualization of the estate.

Principal among these talented individuals whose personalities sometimes clashed was Paul Chalfin, described as the

entrepreneur and perhaps more aptly as “the eye of the needle” through which all decisions had to pass. A former painter, Chalfin was well connected in the art world of his day. Young scholars and practitioners were drawn to him, and he was known to such artists and collectors as James McNeil Whistler and Mrs. Jack Gardner of Boston. He had been influenced by his association with Elsie de Wolfe, an interior decorator whose rooms of “lightness and grace” were a reaction to conventional Victorian decor. Chalfin, the flamboyant arbiter of taste, seemed an improbable choice for the aging, rather prosaic Deering, but together they achieved an aesthetic masterpiece. The selection of a young and untried architect, F. Burrall Hoffman, Jr., and an equally young and untried landscape architect, Diego Suarez, was left to Chalfin. That he sometimes took credit for their designs reveals just one facet of a complex personality. There was enough credit to go around for everyone in this vast undertaking.

Mrs. Harwood has written a valuable and stylishly readable history, the first comprehensive one on the subject. Her portrayal of the people involved and their specific contributions is quite successfully handled. Colateral research done both here and abroad relating to Vizcaya’s art, artifacts, and architectural and landscaping inspirations enhances the story. Vizcaya becomes to the reader what it was meant to be in the minds of its creators, not just the sum of its parts but an integrated whole.

Following Deering’s death in 1925 and the devastating effects of the 1926 hurricane, Vizcaya became in time an overgrown white elephant. It had been the product of an Edwardian mentality and lifestyle that had survived into an unsympathetic age marked by the collapse of the real estate boom in south Florida, the nationwide economic depression, and social attitudes that reflected hard times. Not until well after its purchase in the 1950s by Dade County and its subsequent use as a museum was Vizcaya to return to its former grandeur. Mrs. Harwood’s main concern in this book has been Vizcaya’s beginnings. One can only wish that she had told us more about the long road back.

*Coral Gables, Florida*

MARCIA J. KANNER

*Educating Hand and Mind: A History of Vocational Education in Florida.* By Robert G. Stakenas, David B. Mock, and Kenneth M. Eaddy. (New York: University Press of America, Inc., 1984. xii, 215 pp. Acknowledgments, preface, tables, epilogue, notes, bibliography. \$25.75; \$12.75 paper.)

Funded by the Bureau of Program Improvement of the Florida Division of Vocational, Adult and Community Education, the authors of this volume sought to use Florida as a case study to draw attention to an underlying conflict in education over the relative worth of vocational education as opposed to academic instruction. According to the authors, recent legislative activity in Kentucky, Tennessee, and Florida indicated that the "pendulum is again swinging in favor of academic education in the high school." The authors perceive this to be unfortunate, considering "that the production of goods and services under a technologically oriented society cannot be done effectively unless workers are competent both manually and intellectually." Citing John Dewey, they point out that "an inadequate understanding of the structure of occupations and society leaves workers enslaved in their current jobs without much hope for advancement and personal fulfillment."

They accomplish their espoused goals. The initial chapter is devoted to Florida's establishment and the beginning of its school system. For vocational education nothing significant happened in Florida until it was encouraged by federal grants—the Morrill land grant acts of 1863 and 1890. In order to participate, Florida established at Lake City an agricultural college with an agricultural and mechanical (A & M) component. Under the 1890 law the state provided funding for the black college at Tallahassee. While the white college placed considerable stress on academics, William Sheats, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, sought to transform the Normal and Industrial College for Colored Students into an industrial and agricultural institution modeled after Booker T. Washington's Tuskegee Institute. While teaching boys a trade and girls domestic arts, this system stressed Christian values and the work ethic. Both the Lake City and Tallahassee institutions offered farmers agricultural extension courses. Through state-funded rural school inspection, Sheats, together with many county school superintendents, encouraged student participation in clubs devoted to various agricultural pursuits.

In the next several chapters the authors do an admirable job of clarifying the multitude of federal and state programs affecting vocational education. All of these programs had as their goal the balancing of agricultural and domestic pursuits with trades that would be germane to industrial development. Florida, the fifth state to embrace the Smith-Hughes program (1917), innovated the teacher trainees system whereby an experienced vocational teacher worked closely with a school receiving Smith-Hughes support to develop an appropriate program while letting the community know the advantages of having an industrialized work force.

During the 1930s, emphasis shifted from industrialization to developing marketable skills as a means to get more people employed. The federal government again led the way through its New Deal vocational and agricultural programs and its defense contracts. Florida took a leading role in 1939 by applying the idea of Diversified Cooperative Training (DCT). The public schools provided academic and vocational skills and businesses provided paid on-the-job training. Designed to guarantee every child a minimum level of educational quality regardless of the local tax revenue available, the Florida Minimum Foundations Program, an innovation copied by every state but Hawaii, encouraged vocational education by funding it at twice the rate of general education because of the expensive equipment. In post-high school education, Florida's innovation of area vocational centers joined with a rapidly developing community college vocational program to bring training in a wide variety of occupations within easy reach of nearly every Floridian. In all these innovations, Florida, in the authors' opinions, has provided adequate state leadership but placed too much emphasis on local control leading to parochialism and expensive duplication of effort. In the midst of these critical problems, Florida, again following national trends, has shifted away from vocational education in favor of a more rigorous academic program in the high schools. Thus, the authors in their final statements concluded rightly that Florida had not attained the desired balance between academic and vocational education.

As one of the few studies available in the field of state leadership in vocational education, this book is an outstanding contribution. Still, its value could have been enhanced by a well constructed index, an avoidance of trivial errors such as citing Duncan U. Fletcher as a former governor— an office he never

attained— though he did become United States Senator from Florida, and guarding against misspelling like Halloway for Holloway. In general, it must be repeated that the authors are to be commended for bringing clarity to the often confusing and overlapping program designed to enhance vocational preparation in Florida's population.

*University of Florida*

ARTHUR O. WHITE

*The Papers of Henry Laurens, Volume 10: December 12, 1774-January 4, 1776.* Edited by David R. Chesnutt, et al. (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1985. xxxvi, 700 pp. Introduction, list of abbreviations, principal dates of Laurens's life, appendix, index. \$34.95.)

Covering the exciting months before and after the battles of Lexington and Concord, this volume is perhaps the most interesting to date. From Laurens's perspective the reader can follow the deepening crisis with Britain, the activities of the Sons of Liberty and Committees of Correspondence, and the impact of the news of the fighting at Lexington. The successful planter-merchant Laurens was simultaneously alarmed by Britain's uncompromising policies and by the increasing radicalism of urban artisans and backcountrymen. Though he became reconciled to the fact that armed resistance was necessary to protect American liberties, he was annoyed that many Carolinians from the lower classes now thought it appropriate to "establish Right and Wrong according to the number of Votes" (p. 324). Nor was Laurens happy when "Back Woods-Men," unaccustomed to legislative formalities— sauntering, reporting, disclaiming, amending, etc.— challenged the authority of "the Rich Rice-Planter" (p. 39).

As president of the Council of Safety, the conservative Laurens labored up to sixteen hours a day on governmental affairs, at the same time trying to manage his plantations and commercial interests. His Calvinistic background, emphasizing frugality and hard work, stood him in good stead.

The Revolution was very much a civil war, pitting neighbor against neighbor, and Laurens was distressed that some of his friends and business associates remained loyal to George III.

Still another civil war— a Negro slave uprising— threatened. Slaveowner Laurens championed the liberty of white but not black Carolinians, and he urged stern measures against slaves who ran away to the British or who in any fashion during the confusion attempted to win their freedom.

During these unsettled times the combative, fifty-one year old Laurens repeatedly demonstrated his bravery. A duel with young John Grimke was a case in point, and Laurens was not greatly exaggerating when he contended that by taking up arms against Britain he was putting his head in a noose.

This volume contains relatively little Florida material. The close pre-Revolutionary economic and political ties between South Carolina and East Florida were severed as most white Carolinians, like Laurens, broke with the mother country while East Floridians remained overwhelmingly loyal. Henry Laurens in South Carolina and his son John in London kept in contact with their friend and business associate, absentee East Florida planter Richard Oswald, who up to a point during the crisis remained a friend of America.

The editors have continued their high editorial standards. Considering the time and expense involved, their decision, starting with this volume, not to include fifty-one per cent of Laurens's papers seems a wise one. Researchers eventually will be able to consult a microform edition for items not published.

*Florida State University*

J. LEITCH WRIGHT, JR.

*Black and White Women of the Old South. The Peculiar Sisterhood in American Literature.* By Minrose C. Gwin. (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1985. vii, 238 pp. Acknowledgments, introduction, conclusion, notes, bibliography, index. \$19.95.)

In this book, which belongs to the genre of literary analysis and criticism and developed out of a doctoral dissertation, the author explores the "peculiar sisterhood," the complex and ambivalent relationships of black and white women in the Old South as portrayed in American literature. She does this by examining selected characters, most of them from fiction, but also includes some examples from autobiographies and memoirs. "At the base of my concerns," she says, "are literary explorations



of the institution of slavery and its moral and psychological reverberations within the American literary consciousness, as that consciousness is expressed by male and female, black and white American writers, and as it is created in women characters" (p. 10).

She deals first with two antebellum novels, Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin* and the less well-known *Aunt Phillis's Cabin* by Mary H. Eastman. Although one is an antislavery tract and the other written to defend slavery, there are certain similarities in the treatment of women, black and white, as the voices of morality who furnish a challenge to patriarchy. Although the characters are stereotypical spokeswomen for slavery or abolition, in both novels they develop strong interracial attachments. This is followed by a chapter of diverse examples drawn from slave narratives, journals, and memoirs, some of them published in the antebellum and Civil War period, others, reminiscences, published many years later. A chapter is devoted to each of the following: William Faulkner's *Absolom Absolom!* (1936); Willa Cather's *Sapphira and the Slave Girl* (1940); and Margaret Walker's *Jubilee* (1966).

Diverse as are the examples, some themes recur repeatedly. One is the inability of white women to see black women as individual human beings, while at the same time subconsciously yearning for recognition of the sisterhood of all women. The cruelty of white mistresses, so often recalled by black women, the author attributes to their suppressed sexuality and their envy of what they saw as the sexual freedom of slave women and to their resentment over miscegenation. On the other hand, in retrospect, white women often remembered black women as the "mammy" stereotype, a figure described as created by whites as "the positive emblem of familial relations between black and white . . . a trumped-up figure in the mythologizing of slavery,' who in her maternal benignity came to be an acceptable symbol to whites of black power" (p. 93). In reality, many of the black women who appear in the literature examined in this book showed not only fortitude and resiliency but the capacity for self development and growth when given a degree of freedom.

"What we learn from these women," the author concludes, "whether they be re-creations of self or fictional entities, is the intensity of human need and human connection and human terror embodied in racial encounters in the Old South and by implication in universal human experience, and the profound

impact of racial encounter upon its literary interpreters" (p. 173).

Butler University

EMMA LOU THORNBROUGH

*Broken Churches, Broken Nation: Denominational Schisms and the Coming of the American Civil War.* By C. C. Goen. (Macon: Mercer University Press, 1985. x, 198 pp. Acknowledgments, introduction, notes, index. \$16.95.)

This treatment overstates previous scholarly neglect of the tie between pre- 1850 sectional ecclesiastical schisms and the subsequent political secessions that provoked the Civil War. But the author makes a major contribution in delineating the connection more systematically, authoritatively, and persuasively than others have done.

Goen traces Methodist, Baptist, and Presbyterian retreats from prior antislavery positions during the early nineteenth century— coincident with expansions of cotton production and plantation agriculture, and with the hardening of southern attitudes on race and manumission. He attributes these shifts to an obsession with numerical growth and a concomitant eschewal of temporal purposes that impaired spiritual harvests. It was easier to convert southern whites without requiring "the hard moral discipline demanded by Christian sensitivity to the evil of human bondage" (p. 147). Church leaders proved themselves to be less "distressed by the evils of human bondage than concerned with the tasks of [religious] institutional maintenance" (p. 180). In yielding on slavery, the churches may have lost an opportunity to influence history profoundly (or so Goen intimates)— though the possible opportunity seems to have been of short duration. In any case, by the late 1830s and 1840s, disunionist attitudes were getting out of control inside and outside the churches, remedial steps were less attainable, and acrimonious sectional ecclesiastical ruptures became an actuality. The divided churches thereafter intertwined themselves even more intimately with white opinion in their respective areas, prospering numerically as they became more sectional relative to slavery and other public issues. The author finds "much truth" in the boast of a Kentucky religious editor in 1861 that political seces-

sion had been impossible "until the religious union of North and South was dissolved, . . . until they [political leaders] received the *moral support and co-operation of Southern Christians*" (p. 107). In other words, "The churches were critical agents in a reciprocal process of cumulating alienation" (pp. 133-34).

As war approached, southern churchmen "walked in lockstep with the rest of the South's molders of public opinion" (p. 103), fomenting warlike emotions. On the other hand, Goen indicts northern evangelicals for their racism, for failing to comprehend "the complexities of custom, prejudice, and sectional or class conflict that lie at the root of so much social injustice" (p. 154), and for almost welcoming "a Final Solution, even if that meant trampling out the grapes of wrath with the God of battles" (p. 175). As the ordeal finally moved toward a conclusion in 1865, few churchmen of either section joined Lincoln in contritely acknowledging that God may have inflicted upon "both North and South this terrible war as the woe due to those by whom the offence [of slavery] came" (p. 178).

This admirable volume should become required reading for those who wish to comprehend the chain of events that culminated in the Civil War—the blood bath that took the lives of more than 600,000 men and left the larger aspirations of blacks so much unfulfilled.

*University of Texas at El Paso*

KENNETH K. BAILEY

*The Union Cavalry in the Civil War, Volume III. The War in the West, 1861.* By Stephen Z. Starr. (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1985. xv, 616 pp. Guide to illustrations and maps, preface, epilogue, appendix: The Mutiny of the 15th Pennsylvania, addenda to bibliography, index. \$32.50.)

"Glamor was the word for the cavalry when the Civil War broke out. . . . Otherwise sober men, a generation or two removed from an utterly unromantic frontier, saw the cavalry through the eyes of Sir Walter Scott." With those words Stephen Z. Starr began a comprehensive, three-volume treatment of the Union cavalry from its pre-war roots through four years of spirited struggle and painfully slow, but growing effectiveness. Now, after two decades of work and more than 1,500 pages, Starr has

brought the trilogy to its consummation— and only a short time before his death.

The first two volumes described the raising, organizing, equipping, and training of the mainly volunteer Union cavalry, in both the East and West, and went on to trace its development and operations in the East. The early years of the war demonstrated that the Union cavalry was no match for its Confederate counterpart. The northern recruits, particularly in the East, lacked the skill to ride or care for a horse. They also suffered from inadequate training and equipment. Gradually the Blue troopers were turned into an effective fighting force, reaching their highest level of competence under the energetic direction of the colorful Philip Sheridan.

Now, the present concluding volume, *The War in the West*, provides accounts of the cavalry's role in the Vicksburg campaign, the conquest of middle Tennessee, Sherman's Atlanta campaign, the March to the Sea, and the campaign through the Carolinas. Based on research in a wide variety of sources, Starr's balanced, objective narrative details the numerous problems the cavalry faced: shortages of personnel, horses, and equipment, and sometimes inadequate weapons and unsuitable organization. The author questions the traditional concept, insofar as the cavalry is a test case, of the Confederacy being overwhelmed by "the limitless industrial might of the North" (p. 566).

Starr also points out, and here he makes a convincing case, the too-often inept use of the cavalry by various members of the Union high command. For example, he writes of Sherman and Grant when the Confederates surprised them at Shiloh: "Enough-more than enough— Federal cavalry was present at Shiloh to . . . shake Sherman's . . . assumption that the Confederates would wait patiently at Corinth to be attacked." Instead, the cavalry should have been used, "to patrol the roads leading up from Corinth, where the enemy was known to be, to Shiloh. Certainly both Sherman and Grant . . . knew that patrolling in the direction of the enemy was a primary function of cavalry" (p. 47). And again, concerning Sherman's later use of his cavalry in an ill-fated attempt to raid the Confederate railroads south of Atlanta, Starr writes: "It may not be unfair to wonder what the outcome of the raid might have been if instead of sending three widely separated divisions on the raid, Sherman had joined all four of his divisions into a single corps . . . and had

sent them as a unit against the railroad and the Confederate cavalry protecting it" (p. 467).

Despite all the problems, failures, and missed opportunities, "the culmination of a grim, costly four-year apprenticeship" (p. 565) was an enormously effective Union cavalry arm. More and more, and especially in the West, the Federal cavalry had developed in the direction of the dragoon concept: equally adept at skirmishing and fighting on foot as infantry and on horseback as cavalry. The story of James H. Wilson's 1865 invasion of Alabama, first to Selma, east to Montgomery, and then on to Columbus and Macon, Georgia, provides the most impressive evidence of the cavalry's effective evolution. The "planning, organization, tactics, and operations . . . are a model of their kind and show the officers and men . . . at the height of their powers and effectiveness" (p. 565).

Starr's history is well-constructed and very readable. The three volumes constitute, without question, an outstanding study of the Union cavalry, and should be the standard work on the subject for many years.

*Pepperdine University*

JAMES LEE McDONOUGH

*The Long Surrender.* By Burke Davis. (New York: Random House, 1985. xii, 319 pp. Acknowledgments, epilogue, sources, bibliographical notes, index. \$19.95.)

Burke Davis is a prolific writer particularly talented at relating history for general readers. A journalist for twenty-four years, he turned to the writing of novels, history, biography, and children's books. Among his forty titles published since 1949 are works on Jamestown, the American Revolution, Andrew Jackson, Amelia Earhart, and World War II.

The American Civil War is Mr. Davis's favorite subject. In addition to biographies of Stonewall Jackson, Robert E. Lee, and "Jeb" Stuart, he has written histories of the Appomattox Campaign and Sherman's March to the Sea. In evaluating these works, scholars agree that Burke Davis is a gifted storyteller who relates the past without a great deal of insight or interpretation, but with a whole lot of color and verve.

This same assessment applies to *The Long Surrender*, Mr.

Davis's latest work. Advertised by its dust-jacket as "the dramatic you-are-there story of the collapse of the Confederacy concentrating on the frantic flight of Jefferson Davis and his cabinet to escape the Yankee pursuers," *The Long Surrender* is actually more of a biography of Jefferson Davis's postwar years. The book is organized into five sections, pertaining to the president's escape from Richmond, his pursuit, capture, and imprisonment by Federal authorities, and his life after his release from Fort Monroe in 1867. The author's narration of all this is zestful and quick-paced, and his handling of fact is confident. He recounts particularly well the disbursement of the Confederate treasury, about whose "lost millions" unfounded rumors still circulate. Other notable chapters relate how Jefferson Davis suffered hardship at Fort Monroe, and how his wife, physician, and others stirred the government to effect his release. Spiciest of all topics is the allegation that Davis had an affair with Virginia Clay in 1871. The author draws no conclusion, but he clearly enjoys relating the gossip. Some readers will regret that he does so without making much effort to understand Davis's relationship with his wife or, for that matter, Davis's complex personality in general.

As a good storyteller, Mr. Davis embellishes his narrative by introducing secondary characters. Robert E. Lee is a key figure; some attention is also given to Judah P. Benjamin, John C. Breckinridge, and other cabinet officials and generals. Their scattered flight out of Richmond is a dramatic tale, summarized pointedly by a Confederate general's remark to the president's secretary: "Well, Harrison, in all my days I never knew a government to go to pieces in this way" (p. 115). The author sketches the postwar careers of these individuals, and adds more color to his text through an eclectic array of anecdotes similar to those featured in Mr. Davis's *Our Incredible Civil War* (1960).

Knowledgeable readers will find in *The Long Surrender* a few questionable assertions or outright errors. In February 1865, Robert E. Lee was appointed general-in-chief, not commander-in-chief, as Mr. Davis repeatedly states; in the Confederacy (as in the United States) the president held the latter title among his constitutional powers. Regarding the controversy of the missing rations at Amelia Courthouse, or the restoration of Lee's full rights of citizenship, the author overlooks important details. He overlooks completely Clement Eaton's *Jefferson Davis* (1977) when he refers to Hudson Strode as the president's most recent

biographer. And he overlooks a complete bibliography of modern scholarship when he bases his brief treatment of the "Compromise of 1877" upon Robert S. Henry's outdated work, *The Story of Reconstruction* (1938).

Intelligent but not scholarly, Burke Davis's *The Long Surrender* combines history and biography in a lively and entertaining way. With its graceful, flowing prose it is, as the saying goes, a good read.

*Atlanta, Georgia*

STEPHEN DAVIS

*When the War Was Over: The Failure of Self-Reconstruction in the South, 1865-1867.* By Dan T. Carter. (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1985. xiv, 285 pp. Acknowledgments, abbreviations, introduction, note's, index. \$27.50; \$12.95 paper.)

*When the War Was Over* focuses on the leadership of the South during the ending of the Civil War and that period usually identified as "presidential Reconstruction" which Professor Dan Carter calls "self-Reconstruction." Professor Carter is concerned with that diverse body of Southerners who opposed secession but then reluctantly supported the Confederacy. Included with them are former secessionists who were converted by the war's calamitous end, and a few Unionists who remained true to their sentiments throughout the war. He first relates the enormous confusion, disorder, and violence which beset the South in the waning days of the Confederacy. His portrayal of the psychological numbness, sense of loss, and indecision about the future which affected many Southerners at the end of the war is especially noteworthy. But that was only a temporary condition for most. As President Johnson's permissive policies became clear, leaders in the various southern states began attempting to rebuild their shattered political, economic, and social systems. There was considerable evidence of the old Whiggish policies of growth and development as the legislatures attempted to stimulate new railroad construction and other internal improvement projects. Although he cautions that earlier works have perhaps been too harsh on southern leadership for its failures on racial policies, he does not ignore the fact that

these people were so imbued with ideas of racial inferiority that their laws regarding freedmen (which they considered reasonable) ultimately raised the suspicions of the national Congress.

As congressmen began scrutinizing southern legislation more closely and the northern press began attacking it, Southerners divided. Some dug in their heels and became defensive while others attempted to cooperate with Congress. In the meantime, violence by whites against blacks accelerated until some Southerners abandoned their efforts to work with the post-war conservatives and joined the Republican party. By that time the Congressional Radicals had overcome President Johnson's efforts to rebuild the South and the southern leadership had failed at "self-Reconstruction."

In writing of the South during the first two years after the Civil War, Professor Carter has set out on a much-travelled road. He is to be applauded for his enormously broad and deep research in the original records and for successfully telling a good story about a tragic and complicated period of American history. While historians of Reconstruction may not find much that is new in *When the War Was Over*, they will find a well-reasoned and well-written story and a shift of emphasis toward the positive side of the post-war legislatures which attempted to rebuild the states' economies and improve transportation while also dealing with the problems resulting from the end of slavery. All in all the book is a fresh and cogent addition to the abundant literature on the period.

*University of Central Florida*

JERRELL H. SHOFNER

*The Self-Inflicted Wound: Southern Politics in the 19th Century.* By Robert F. Durden. (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1985. x, 150 pp. Preface, notes, bibliography, index. \$16.00.)

Between the 1790s and the 1890s the South moved from a two-party to a one-party system and from a "predominantly nationalistic, optimistic mood" to a "sullenly sectional, chronically defensive attitude." How the South came to this "essentially tragic political fate" is the subject of Robert F. Durden's latest book. His thesis is that Southerners— the white majority of them— suffered a "self-inflicted wound" as victims of their own



racism (p. ix). Their racism found expression in slavery and the proslavery argument, in secession and the war for the Confederacy, in Ku Kluxism and the overthrow of Reconstruction, and finally in discrimination and the maintenance of white supremacy. "The South's greatest enemy in the nineteenth century, in short, proved all too sadly to be the great majority of southern whites" (p. 132).

The story in itself is old and familiar enough, but Durden's retelling of it is unhackneyed and up-to-date. It assimilates the most authoritative of recent works on southern history, including works of his own, most notably *The Gray and the Black: The Confederate Debate on Emancipation*. The writing is admirable for its economy and clarity.

In any extremely compact narrative, such as this one, there are almost bound to be some statements so condensed as to be a little less than strictly accurate, but these instances are very few in the present work. Only one statement appears to be seriously questionable: in arguing for slavery in the territories, "Calhoun and the South were insisting that there was nothing different or special about slave property" (p. 56). As the record will show, Calhoun argued that slavery occupied a very special place in the United States Constitution. Slavery, he constantly maintained, was "the only property recognized by it" and "the only one that entered into its formation as a political element."

This volume is the third of a projected twenty volumes to be published in a series titled "New Perspectives on the South" and edited by Charles P. Roland. "The series is designed to give a fresh and comprehensive view of the region's history as seen in the light of recent developments in the South and the nation," Roland explains (pp. vii-viii). "Each volume is expected to represent both a synthesis of the best scholarship on the topic and the author's own interpretive analysis." The two previous volumes, both excellent, are John B. Boles's *Black Southerners, 1619-1869* and Albert E. Cowdrey's *This Land, This South: An Environmental History*. Durden's *The Self-Inflicted Wound* perfectly meets the editor's specifications and fully maintains the high standard set by its predecessors.

University of North Carolina  
at Greensboro

RICHARD N. CURRENT

*Hoover, Blacks, and Lily-Whites: A Study of Southern Strategies.* By Donald J. Lisio. (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1985. xxii, 373 pp. Preface, acknowledgments, notes, bibliography, index. \$29.95.)

Herbert Clark Hoover remains something of an enigma. "The Great Humanitarian," who directed campaigns to feed starving Europeans following World War I, could not manage to furnish relief for starving Americans during the Great Depression. A much admired public servant swept into the presidency by a landslide in 1928, Hoover vacated the White House four years later in defeat and disgrace. No group had been more loyal to the Republican party than black Americans; yet Hoover succeeded in alienating a large segment of this faithful minority. That most blacks still voted for Hoover in 1932 attests less to their approval of him than to their perception that they would have received even worse treatment from a Democratic president.

Donald J. Lisio argues that Hoover has been misunderstood on the racial issue. Rather than a bigot, the president was a firm believer in black advancement and sought to promote equal opportunities for those who could take advantage of them. As secretary of commerce, he had encouraged the Red Cross and private philanthropists to develop plans to challenge peonage in the South, a proposal which failed. More successfully, he abolished segregation in the Census Bureau and established the Division of Colored Industries. As president, Hoover and his wife invited prominent blacks to the White House for social occasions, despite the vigorous objections of influential white Southerners. In addition, he promoted black higher education and created commissions to study black economic problems.

In contrast to these favorable actions, Hoover also supported measures that greatly alarmed blacks. He believed state Republican parties in the South operated as corrupt patronage machines that were badly in need of reform. Because blacks still played a key role in running these organizations and dispensing political offices in Dixie, they would suffer from Hoover's attempts to reshape the party apparatus. Toward this end, the chief executive hoped to identify honest white leaders, whose first concern was clean government rather than political gain, and install them as his overseers of appointment to federal offices in the South. The president did not want to eliminate hon-

est black politicians from consideration, but he hoped instead to recruit a black elite to cooperate with the new white leaders. By restructuring the Republican party along these lines, Hoover envisioned it competing successfully with the Democrats on the basis of economics not race, thereby giving both whites and blacks real policy choices. Despite these intentions, the president gave the impression that he sided with lily-white Republicans against black and tan factions, a view reinforced by his controversial nomination of John J. Parker of North Carolina to the United States Supreme Court. His stubbornness in defending Parker, who had once made racist remarks as a gubernatorial candidate, further eroded confidence in his regime and contributed to his defeat on this issue.

Although Lisio contends that Hoover was not a foe of black progress, he does fault the president for creating fatal misunderstandings concerning his policies. Hoover consistently refused to explain his true motives for fear of arousing white racist demagoguery and jeopardizing his dream of a two-party South; nevertheless, his silence only convinced blacks that he meant to abandon them. More importantly, Lisio points out that Hoover failed because he could not transcend the racist assumptions of his era. He did not comprehend that racism, not the spoils system, was the poison of southern politics. His beliefs in voluntarism and self-help, no matter how well meaning, were inappropriate to combat the forces of white supremacy. The brand of elitism and paternalism offered by Hoover was no more successful in opening up first-class citizenship to blacks than in combating the Great Depression. In the end, as the author accurately concludes, "Hoover's venture into southern politics proved a sad encounter both for him and for black Americans" (p. 282).

This book provides a judicious account based on a thorough investigation into archival sources and a well-informed reading of the secondary literature. Overall, the author does not turn Hoover into a sympathetic figure, but he does succeed in portraying a more complex individual than the one pictured in standard works on the subject. This volume illuminates the tragic flaws not only in Hoover's approach to race but also in his handling of the presidency in general.

*University of South Florida*

STEVEN F. LAWSON

*The Little Mans Big Friend: James E. Folsom in Alabama Politics, 1946-1958.* By George E. Sims. (University, AL: University of Alabama Press, 1985. x, 271 pp. Acknowledgments, notes, essay on sources, index. \$29.50.)

*Big Mules and Branchheads: James E. Folsom and Political Power in Alabama.* By Carl Grafton and Anne Permaloff. (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1985. xv, 307 pp. Figures and tables, preface, acknowledgments, appendix, notes, bibliography, indes. \$27.50 cloth.)

James Elisha "Big Jim" Folsom served as governor of Alabama from 1947 to 1951, and from 1955 to 1959. His eccentricities, enormous size (6'8"), and unorthodox political sentiments have accorded him a legendary stature. After four decades of oral tradition, two books on Folsom's career have recently been published. Persons interested in southern history and government will be pleased with both books.

George E. Sims, author of *The Little Man's Big Friend: James E. Folsom in Alabama Politics, 1946-1958*, convincingly depicts Folsom as an influence on Alabama's transition from local to national values. Oral tradition has overemphasized Folsom's unconventionality. "Unfortunately," Sims writes, "the drama and color of Folsom anecdotes overshadow the fact that Folsom's life and his public service confronted all the tensions that accompanied the thrusting of a locally oriented society into the confusion of America's mass culture" (p. 5). To validate his theme, Sims details the political intrigues of Folsom's gubernatorial years. In bypassing traditional county leaders, Sims writes, "Folsom's campaigns belonged to the politics of the coming mass culture" (p. 22). Moreover, Folsom's legislative victories on taxes, pensions, schools, and roads pointed to Alabama's future. Folsom's progressive stance on unions and civil rights also demonstrated his forward-looking platform.

As the subtitle states, this book is a study of politics, not a biography. Sims offers little historical perspective on the people, place, and time of Folsom's life. Apparently, Sims's objective is narrowly defined to describe Alabama politics in a specific era, and he succeeds admirably. The inclusion of a preface might have clarified the author's goals for the reader. Sims is a skilled writer. His prose is spare, yet precise and descriptive. Occasionally his keen wit adds to the reader's enjoyment. He uses oral history well and has researched the necessary resources. Al-

together, Sims has commendably recounted and analyzed the intricacies of a political epoch.

Carl Grafton and Anne Permaloff's *Big Mules and Branchheads: James E. Folsom and Political Power in Alabama* is a more thorough biography and a superior book. According to Grafton and Permaloff, a commitment to political and economic democracy motivated Folsom's career. "The Big Mules—the electric utilities, steel companies, and plantation owners" dominated Alabama government and society (p. 22). By advocating reapportionment, civil rights for blacks, and economic justice, Folsom challenged elite politics in Alabama. Folsom "wanted nothing less than to be the leader of a revolution" (p. 254). He failed to remove the Big Mules from power, but he "mobilized the forces of change" and "gave hope and a sense of worth to average men and women" (p. 263). Those who view the man as a buffoon or as a spoilsman reflect "a common misunderstanding of the powerful ideological motivations that drove Folsom" (p. 195).

Grafton and Permaloff are talented historians. They conducted over 100 interviews, exhaustively researched the documents, and imaginatively analyzed the data. Their language is carefully crafted. For example, in a sentence describing Folsom's lieutenants, Grafton and Permaloff write, "Some of them were honest, others dishonest in varying degrees; some were competent, even brilliant, others completely inept; a few were idealistic, but most were utterly self-serving" (p. 212).

Both *The Little Man's Big Friend* and *Big Mules and Branchheads* include a sampling of "Big Jim stories." Sims's account of the Baptist minister's invocation at the 1955 Southern Governors' Conference, New York Governor Averell Harriman's visit to Alabama, and the crash of a United States Navy plane off a carrier in Pensacola Bay (the pilot was unscathed) are hilarious. Grafton and Permaloffs description of Folsom's meeting with state business leaders in Mobile is also well recounted.

Sims and Grafton and Permaloff have written good books. Certainly all libraries (high school, college, and public) should order them. Yet, if you confront financial limitations, which should you purchase for your personal library? Save your money and celebrate the day you can afford to buy both *The Little Man's Big Friend* and *Big Mules and Branchheads*.

East Texas State University

TOM R. WAGY

*In Pursuit of Power: Southern Blacks and Electoral Politics, 1965-1982.* By Steven F. Lawson. (New York: Columbia University Press, 1985. xix, 391 pp. Preface, acknowledgments, notes, bibliography, index. \$30.00.)

Professor Lawson's first volume in William Leuchtenburg's Columbia series, *Black Ballots, Voting Rights in the South, 1944-1969*, covers the struggle from the attack on the whites-only primary through the 1965 Voting Rights Act and the subsequent enrollment of black voters in the South. In this succeeding study, Lawson continues the story through the battle with the Reagan administration over the 1982 extension of the law. While his initial account deals with the more dramatic confrontations which produced a legal revolution in southern race relationships, the second takes up the further adjudication and application of the law.

History has proven Lyndon Johnson correct, Lawson maintains, in seeing the ballot as the path for keeping black America within the system. With the decline of the 1960s radicalism, the black bourgeoisie has been pursuing a path of coalition politics which has been basically accepted by both black and white. While it has done much to ease off police violence and political race-baiting, it has offered little to meet the needs of the black underclasses, rural and ghetto poor, for jobs, adequate housing, health care, education, and involvement in American mainstream life.

Government voting rights strategy, aimed at voluntary local compliance rather than maximum black registration, was pursued through minimum federal intervention in state election affairs. Its success has been shown by the acceptance of black voting rights as part of the American system. As such, with the support of a growing constituency, including Republicans and white southern legislators, it has resisted the relatively mild attempts of the Nixon, Ford, and Reagan administrations to weaken the law when it was up for renewal in 1970, 1975, and 1982.

By the 1970s the struggle over voting rights had shifted from registration to a "second generation of franchise subterfuges." The requirement of "preclearance" of voting law changes became the chief protection against racially motivated reregistrations, reapportionments, redistricting, annexations, and conversions to multi-member and at-large elections. Black goals had shifted from registration to electoral representation,

but despite impressive gains, the number of office-holders remained disproportionately small. In 1980, there were still no elected black officials in one-fourth of the black majority counties in the seven southern states originally covered by the Voting Rights Law.

By the late 1970s political resistance, drawing upon a growing national conservatism, equated compensatory treatment of minorities with "reverse discrimination." Litigation revolved around the crucial question of whether discrimination was to be measured by electoral results or by proving the "intent" of arrangements such as at-large elections which diluted black voting power. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall pushed for a "disproportionate impact test" to measure the effect of voting arrangements. In the 1980 *City of Mobile* decision, however, Justice Stewart wrote for the majority that "The Fifteenth Amendment does not entail the right to have Negro candidates elected" (p. 277), but the Court continued to uphold "preclearance" and the right of the federal government to legislate further voting arrangements.

By the 1980s Professor Lawson concludes, the acceptance of black suffrage had justified neither white fears nor black hopes. The vote had not necessarily conferred power. It had brought improvement in race relations but fell short of political and far short of economic equality. However, while Lawson properly offers these three measures of the role of the ballot, none of these is the subject of his study. His carefully researched concern is the legislative, judicial, and administrative history of the Voting Rights Law. It is not an exciting story, but it is a necessary one, and he tells it well.

*University of Florida*

DAVID CHALMERS

*Thinking Back: The Perils of Writing History.* By C. Vann Woodward. (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1986. x, 158 pp. Acknowledgments, prologue, selective list of critical works, index. \$12.95.)

C. Vann Woodward is easily the greatest living historian of the South, and possibly the greatest living American historian. In *Thinking Back* he reviews his own books, discusses the critics

of these works, and, in the interesting prose style which marks all of his writings reflects on the meaning of history and how he has sought to interpret this meaning. In addition to a number of essays and articles his books represent half a century of significant contributions.

The first title in the Woodward panorama is *Tom Watson: Agrarian Rebel* produced in the 1930s. This was followed by *Reunion and Reaction: The Compromise of 1877 and the End of Reconstruction*, then *The Strange Career of Jim Crow*, *Origins of the New South, 1877-1913*, *The Burden of Southern History*, and *American Counterpoint: Slavery and Racism in the North-South Dialogue*. He also has edited *The Comparative Approach to American History*, is co-author of a general history of the United States, is editor of *Mary Chestnut's Civil War*, and is the general editor of the multi-volume *The Oxford History of the United States*. He has also written several volumes on naval history, including *The Battle for Leyte Gulf*. Thus his writing is broader than southern history as it also embraces an interpretation of populism in America. Then, in the area of comparative history, he ranges beyond the United States to include comparisons with both slavery and emancipation in other countries.

The main focus of this book, is, however, an interpretation of the South. Prior to Woodward, the leading historians of the South, such as Ulrich B. Phillips, Edward Dunning, and Philip Bruce, romanticized the southern tradition as one in which from colonial times on into the twentieth century an enlightened southern aristocracy led united whites in a move which also protected blacks and which brought the South from the plantation system to modern beneficent industrialism and capitalism. These romantic historians wrote that the exception was that in the period of Reconstruction in the South, 1865-1876, northern-scalawags misled newly-freed blacks in a period marked by rejection of the old southern leadership, which only resulted in mismanagement, hate, and corruption. From his earliest writings on the populist leader Tom Watson, Woodward differed sharply, pointing to neglect of blacks, conflicts between poorer and wealthier whites, and also arguing that change, rather than continuity was a significant part of the southern legacy. This was especially the message of the first three books by Woodward, and caused him also to differ from Wilbur J. Cash who, in his *The Mind of the South*, stressed southern continuity. Cash never embraced the full romanticization of the South as found in Phil-



lips, Dunning, and Bruce. I would point out that Woodward, himself, in *The Burden of Southern History*, somewhat revises his earlier sharp criticism of continuity in the southern tradition by arguing that the South does have its own distinctiveness and common characteristics, one of which is admiration for individuality. In this respect he finds the best expression of southern culture to be in its literary tradition, especially as exemplified by the novels of William Faulkner and by such interpreters as Robert Penn Warren and Walker Percy. Part of this Woodward attributes to the southern experience in hardship following defeat in the Civil War, although he again finds it wrong to over-emphasize its' impact on the latter part of the twentieth century. He identifies his own system of values with that of Reinhold Niebuhr.

Looking at the growth of the South in the last two decades Woodward hopes it will not go the way of tinsel and glitter or pop culture and pop religion. He strongly objects to the application of the term "sun-belt" as correctly embracing the rapid-growth area from California and Texas and then on through the South. From the standpoint of politics and economics, however, students in those disciplines, including myself, do find many common characteristics in both attitudes and political behavior of this entire "sun-belt." However, I would also point out that environmental concerns in these areas possibly point the way to a check on earlier exploitation, especially as personal income rises in many of these areas, such as Florida.

The general reader will find this book to be easily readable, thought provoking, and of a high intellectual level. This is no mere narrative of past writings and how they have been received, although it includes that. But what stands out most clearly is that this is a work by a many-sided interpreter of civilization with a first-rate mind.

*University of Florida*

MANNING J. DAUER

*American Brahman: A History of the American Brahman.* By Joe A. Akerman, Jr. (Houston: American Brahman Breeders Association, 1982. xiv, 384 pp. Preface, foreword, acknowledgments, notes, illustrations, bibliography. \$10.50.)

BOOK REVIEWS

Joe Akerman's *American Brahman* is the first comprehensive study of this uniquely American breed of beef cattle. The author describes the American Brahman as "developed from an amalgamation of four predominant Indian breeds with early native range stock under American conditions with a particular beef standard in mind." Akerman outlines the old world backgrounds of the Indian breeds that were the ancestors of today's Brahman cattle and then proceeds to detail the introduction of representatives of these breeds in the United States. The author provides a narrative history of the development of the breed from the earliest introduction of "Bramah, Brahman, or Bremer" type cattle into this country in the 1830s to present date.

Pioneer cattlemen, primarily Texans, but otherwise scattered throughout the Southeast, who introduced and experimented with early Brahman cows, are featured in the narrative. Several fine illustrations help capture the flavor of the pioneer cattle industry in nineteenth-century America.

Later chapters concentrate on the establishment of the American Brahman Breeders Association in 1924 and its later growth, the development of Brahman crossbreeds, and an analysis of the Brahman's overall contribution to the cattle industry and to the future outlook of the breed.

The book is well researched, as evidenced by its extensive bibliography and footnotes. The author, who teaches history at North Florida Junior College, is author of *Florida Cowman, A History of Florida Cattle Raising*. In *American Brahman* he includes numerous references to Florida and this state's role in the development of Brahman cattle. Dr. A. C. Ambler is cited as introducing Indian cattle or "Brahmins" into Florida as early as 1858. An important Brahman crossbreed, the Braford— three-eighths Brahman and five-eighths Hereford— has been fostered and publicized by the Adams Ranch in Fort Pierce.

The author has skillfully combined an interesting narrative history with sufficient technical data to provide a well-organized study of the American Brahman breed of cattle.

*Bluegrass: A History.* By Neil V. Rosenberg. (Urbana: University of Illinois, 1985. xii, 447 pp. Acknowledgments, introduction, bibliography, discography, aural history, interviews, index, song title index. \$24.95.)

This is a fascinating book. I pity anyone currently working on a history of bluegrass music. In a field laden with ersatz scholarship and pseudo-critics, Neil Rosenberg has produced a volume on the history of the American music known as bluegrass which is unlikely to be surpassed— or equalled— by any subsequent scholar. There is no way in a short review to do it justice.

Rosenberg comes to his subject with much more than scholarly credentials. Not only is he a perceptive folklorist, he is also a professional (he calls himself a semiprofessional) musician, having spent the last twenty-five years in and around bluegrass music and its principal figures. He therefore brings to this study an understanding of the nuances and subtleties of both the music of the genre and the techniques of the craft which only a picker can possess. This happy combination of scholar and musician gives Rosenberg's book an authority and a depth that make this work not only the best this reviewer has yet seen on the music of rural America, it is, in addition, one of the best books ever written on any kind of American music. It is as if Leonard Feather and Billy Strayhorn in collaboration had written a history of big-band jazz. Published in the Illinois Press's Music in America series, the study is a notable addition to that fine list.

Bluegrass has come to mean a stylized musical form. Aficionados, who sometimes declare themselves bluegrass connoisseurs after fifteen minutes at the Florida Folk Festival, would insist that certain elements must be present or the music is not "pure bluegrass." Only specific instruments are permitted by this definition, all of them acoustical and stringed: guitar and string bass— the percussion section— fiddle, five-string banjo, mandolin, lead guitar, and dobro (steel or Hawaiian guitar— the "hound dog," as Lester Flatt used to call it). The only permitted electrical current is in the sound system which magnifies a live performance, or the juice which powers the stereo system that plays the record.

"Expert legend" has it that bluegrass music is the soul of the southern mountains, handed down in the distant past by generations of mountain folk unspoiled by commercial culture— the

myth as expounded in the movie *Deliverance*. In fact, as Neal Rosenberg shows, bluegrass, although its mountain antecedents are genuine, is a post-World War II phenomenon, and from its inception has been a commercial and professional music. Moreover, the reliance on acoustic instruments to the exclusion of all others is more or less an historical accident, although the continued insistence on non-electric instruments has today become what Rosenberg calls a "philosophical position."

In twelve scintillating chapters, Rosenberg traces the history of this remarkable cultural phenomenon and the people who made it. He is especially informative on the origins of the genre and its founding father, the storied Bill Monroe. His cultural and historical perspective is broad, and therefore his grasp of the context out of which bluegrass emerged gives his work its comprehensiveness. Yet he never strays from the task at hand, hence the book is neither discursive nor rambling. It is as tight, as ordered, and as harmonious as Bill Monroe's greatest band, which numbered among its members Lester Flatt, Earl Scruggs, and Lake City's Chubby Wise. Readers, whether bluegrass fans or not, will find themselves captured by the author's command of the subject and his clear and reasoned analysis.

*University of Florida*

AUGUSTUS M. BURNS, III

*The History of Southern Literature*. By Louis D. Rubin, Jr., et al. (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1985. xiv, 626 pp. Acknowledgments, introduction, appendices, bibliography, index. \$29.95.)

A one-volume history of southern literature (the first, the editors tell us, since the early 1950s) which extends bravely through southern writing since then right up to 1982— a history of such a span of letters, particularly one written by nearly fifty scholars and edited by five others, takes on the air, and the dependable utility, not so much of a history but of a portable encyclopedia. As perhaps the *Columbia Desk* might be said to stand against *Brittanica*, so this handy text must be considered against the vast territory it stakes out. The multiple authors, top-of-their-field scholars, provide in their discrete essays— of genres, of movements, of minor figures, of majors— a kind of

clean, academic, yet not altogether homogenous style which further removes us from the tone of a customary history written by one historian, and there is sufficient and necessary overlap among the pieces to effect a quality of redundancy if one were to demand finally a linear, considered, one-perspective treatment. One doesn't. A signal departure this kind of clinical, corporate view provides may be seen in, say, the academic assessment of George Washington Harris's *Sut Lovingood* – the reader familiar with Edmund Wilson's Draconian contempt for *Sut* in *Patriotic Gore* will marvel at the evenness here.

The book is secondarily a "history" of the criticism of southern literature as well, in that our current critics, in citing the work of their forbearers, seek to dismiss the misinformed and wrong-headed and elevate the intelligent, and they frequently refer to reigning modern authority, quite often themselves. Thus the book can serve as a guide to both southern literature and to the story of its vicissitudes of critical fate.

Organization is into four historical sections, each with a brief over-view introduction followed by the longer articles: Colonial and Antebellum Literature, 1607-1860; The War and After, 1861-1920; The Southern Renaissance, 1920-1950; The Recent South, 1951-1982. This final section, without which the book would have been "easier, and far more tidy" (and less interesting), features chapters on individual authors and groups of authors deemed most likely enduring – with less effort than in the previous sections to establish rank in the pantheon, which efforts, when premature, the editors warn, are often "not merely confusing but frequently absurd." These last pieces are as a result higher in their ratio of fact to interpretation, of event to "history," than those pieces dealing with earlier and prudently canonizable periods.

Having declared this a book to use as an encyclopedia, as a teaser into broader reading where teased (James Matthews Le-gare "turned to fiction, painting, and invention, eventually discovering a fiber he called 'Plastic-Cotton' from which he formed various pieces of furniture" – ?), as a locator of access points to an *oeuvre* totally unfamiliar (one couldn't help but start Kate Chopin at *The Awakening*), it must be said that most finally intriguing is the business of seeing the history of southern literature. That is, in seeing the rangy corpus as something of a piece. It takes a nearly cosmic effort, and most likely it is foolish to push the matter so far, but one can allow, in this interest of

continuum, certain large contours and patterns to evolve. Does the tormenting irony of supporting the insupportable “peculiar institution” of slavery for so long by the South’s brightest men of letters create the natural and inevitable breeding ground for a view of the world and art predicated precisely upon that kind of searing, deep, tension-is-all irony that would be the clarion call of the Fugitives a hundred years later? Does John Smith (the book’s first southern writer) somehow— in beheading Turks in Transylvania before holding Powhatan and heathen at bay in a swamp with a compass and a lecture on cosmography— does he somehow derail the South from a concern with the transcendental for a concern with the “myth of history?” Facts, trends, titles, dates, characters, summaries, historical/intellectual plate tectonics, exotica— this text is grand in its scale, good in its parts, a rich reference work up-to-the-minute.

*University of Florida*

PADGETT POWELL

## BOOK NOTES

*Punta Gorda and the Charlotte Harbor Area: A Pictorial History* is by Vernon Peeples, one of the recognized authorities on the history of that area of the Gulf Coast. Many of the rare photographs are from the author's collection, and are appearing in print for the first time. Manatee County was established in 1855, and Peeples describes its early beginnings in an introduction. There are six chapters, five describing the history of the area from 1860 to the present. The final chapter deals with the islands— south Boca Grande, Boca Grande, and Gasparilla. The pictures and narrative cover the economic development of Punta Gorda and Charlotte Harbor: agriculture, cattle, tourism, fishing, boating, and shipping. Included also are photographs of churches, homes, motion picture theaters, businesses, and many street scenes. There are pictures of people, not only the business, political, and social leaders of the community, but also ordinary people, white and black, young and old. There are many photographs of children, and a picture of a De Soto County cowboy. The photographs are of good quality, particularly when one considers the age and condition of many of the originals. An index, which too often is not included in illustrated histories, is a welcome addition. It is an attractively packaged book. *Punta Gorda and the Charlotte Harbor Area: A Pictorial History* was published by the Donning Company; Norfolk, Virginia, for the Medical Center Foundation of Punta Gorda. Order from the Foundation, Box 1309, Punta Gorda, Florida 33951; the price is \$29.95.

Kathy Pickel of Vero Beach wrote *Changes: Indian River County History for Elementary School Students* at the request of the Indian River County School Board. It is being used by fourth-grade students who are now able to learn about the geography and history of their own community and county. It is in the fourth grade that public school children are supposed to receive their first organized course in Florida history. Unfortunately there are not always enough basic source materials for teachers to use in their programs. Ms. Pickel has provided excellent resource material for the teachers in her part of Florida. Her work should stimulate other Florida communities to encourage,

and subsidize if needed, similar projects. Geography, Indians, transportation, weather, wildlife, and agriculture are a few of the subjects described in Ms. Pickel's workbook. *Changes* sells for \$5.00, and the *Teachers Guide*, which includes a bibliography, is priced at \$3.00. Both may be ordered from Kathy Pickel, 515 Holly Road, Vero Beach, Florida 32963. Ms. Pickel received an award from the Florida Historical Confederation for her publication at the annual meeting of the Florida Historical Society held in Bradenton in May 1986.

*Anthropology in Florida: History of a Discipline* was a study done for the *Florida Journal of Anthropology* by Brian M. du Toit of the University of Florida. He traces the establishment and development of anthropology, both teaching and research, at the University of Florida, Florida State University, and the other state universities. At the University of Florida, anthropology was first introduced in the sociology department. The 1949-1950 catalog lists courses in cultural anthropology and American Indian culture, and field sessions in archeology. The author describes the roles played by sociologists like Lucius M. Bristol, John M. Mac-lachlan, and Winston W. Ehrmann at the University of Florida, and Raymond F. Bellamy at Florida State College for Women in Tallahassee. The major names in Florida anthropology, du Toit notes, are William H. Sears, John W. Griffin, John M. Goggin, Hale G. Smith, and Charles H. Fairbanks. Professor du Toit's monograph lists theses and dissertations written at Florida universities. Free copies of his publication are available as long as supplies last. Regular issues of the *Florida Journal of Anthropology* are available to members of the Florida Anthropological Student Association. For information on the special issue and on membership write, 1350 Turlington Hall, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida 32611.

*Steamboating on the Indian River* was written by Fred A. Hopwood from interviews that he did with steamboat men and their families and friends. He also utilized unpublished manuscripts, memoirs, records, and the schedules and travel brochures issued by the steamboat companies. According to available records the *Pioneer* was the first steamer to arrive at Titusville; it sailed into port in 1877. Over the years more than 200 boats operated on the Indian River, but the main period of activity was 1880-1899.



The steamers provided transportation for both freight and passengers. A few vessels were large enough to carry dozens of passengers, but most of them were small. There is information on the mail boats, which were so important to the people who lived in the area. Order from the author, Box 443, Melbourne, Florida 32935; the price is \$5.00.

*History of West Melbourne, Florida* is also by Fred A. Hopwood. When Melbourne was founded in the 1870s, the areas west of town were called the North Indian Fields, the South Indian Fields, and sometimes just the "Back Country." Hopwood's monograph is a collection of stories and anecdotes, many collected from older citizens of the area. They include stories told by the fishermen and hunters. Order from Mr. Hopwood; the price is \$5.00.

*Florida Historical Index*, compiled by John Cameron, is an excellent research tool because it indexes every historical platt site in the state by township, range, and section. The first civilian survey team began mapping sections of Florida in 1826, and the surveys continue to the present. Cameron's index lists brick-yards, bridges, natural bridges, ferry crossings, creek and river fords, fortifications, homesteads, Indian sites, landings, mills, related sites, named roads, springs, towns and settlements, and wharfs. To use information in the *Florida Historical Index* to locate a specific site, the town and range of an area must first be determined. Categories are checked by range to determine if any sites are available in the desired area. The specified platt map is then ordered from the state of Florida. Order from Internal Improvement Fund, Elliott Building, Tallahassee. The cost is \$2.00 each, plus tax. The platt maps will need to be checked with Topographical Engineer's maps, which are generally available in local communities. The *Florida Historical Index* may be ordered from John Cameron, Box 8501, Tampa, Florida 33674. The price is \$12.95, plus .75 for handling.

*Coacoochee: Made of the Sands of Florida* is the story of the famous Seminole Indian chief who was imprisoned, together with Osceola, at Fort Marion in St. Augustine in 1837. Coacoochee escaped from the fort by squeezing through a small

opening in the prison cell and then scaling down the outside wall. Osceola was not so fortunate; he was taken as a prisoner to South Carolina where he died. Coacoochee was actively involved in the Second Seminole War, the longest Indian war in United States history. The account of Coacoochee, by Arthur E. Francke, Jr., is presented in verse. In a short concluding chapter, Mr. Francke provides information on Coacoochee's activities after the war until his death from small pox in 1857. Order from the author, 50 Palmetto Drive, DeBary, Florida 32713. The price is \$5.00, plus \$1.00 for handling.

*The City Slant* is a new literary journal published by Miami-Dade Community College at its Mitchell Wolfson New World Center Campus in Miami. The first issue includes articles on art, ecology, bilingualism, and medical research. For information, write the Public Affairs Office of the College; 300 N.E. Second Avenue, Miami, Florida 33132.

*The Legendary Mizners*, by Alva Johnston, was first published in 1953. It is the story of Wilson and Addison Mizner and the roles they played in the history of South Florida, particularly the Palm Beach and Boca Raton areas, during the Florida boom of the 1920s. The original illustrations by Reginald Marsh are also included in this paperback reprint published by Farrar, Straus & Giroux, New York. The price is \$8.95.

*George E. Merrick and Coral Gables, Florida* is by Kathryn Ashley. It is a short biography of one of Florida's most important 1920s, Boom-era developers and the city he created. Merrick was not only the builder of a city once described as the most beautiful in the country, he was also a philanthropic and civic leader. He founded the University of Miami and played an active role in the public affairs of Dade County. *George E. Merrick and Coral Gables, Florida*, sells for \$15.00. Order from Crystal Bay Publishers, Box 140507, Coral Gables, Florida 33134.

Every year millions of American's go to state, county, and community agricultural fairs. Although fairs had their origin in medieval Europe, they were introduced into America in the colonial period. The first such fairs may have been community

sheep shearing, which attracted many people. Prizes were awarded for superior sheep, wool, and domestic manufactures. One of the largest of these affairs was held annually at George Washington Parke Custis's farm in Arlington, Virginia. He was the step-son of George Washington, and his farm is now part of Arlington National Cemetery. Agricultural fairs were first held in Florida in the territorial period after 1821. The *Historical Directory of American Agricultural Fairs*, by Donald B. Marti, lists the fairs and other agricultural events in each state. The largest such event in this state is the Florida State Fair in Tampa, held each February to coincide with the Gasparilla Festival. This fair was first named the Central Florida Fair when it began in 1904. It then became the Mid-Winter Festival, and adopted its present name when the Florida State Fair of Jacksonville was discontinued. The Florida Strawberry Festival held each March is another popular event. Throughout the state there are many fairs sponsored by counties and cities. There is also the Central Florida Fair, Florida Citrus Festival, Kissimmee Valley Livestock Show and Fair, North Florida Fair, Northeast Florida Fair, South Dade County Fair and Festival, South Florida Fair and Exposition, Southeastern Youth Fair, Southwest Florida Fair, and the Suwannee River Livestock Show and Fair. Schedules and program information, a bibliography, and a subject index, are included in *Historical Directory*, published by Greenwood Press, Inc., Westport, Connecticut; it sells for \$55.00.

*Black History: A Guide to Civilian Records in the National Archives* was compiled by Debra L. Newman. It is a guide to the records of 141 non-military federal agencies that pertain to black Americans. Arranged by record groups and series, the book describes the activities of each agency and provides information on the volume and characteristics of each specific group. There is a comprehensive index. Order from the National Archives *Black History*, Department 404, Box 37066, Washington, D.C. 20013. The price is \$13.00 for paper, and \$18.00 cloth.

Kathryn Lee Seidel in her study of *The Southern Belle in the American Novel* examines the ways that nineteenth and twentieth-century writers have portrayed young, unmarried southern women in their novels. John Pendleton Kennedy described the

first southern belle in his *Swallow Barn*, published in 1832. She lived on a great plantation, was of a marriageable age (over sixteen years), and was ready to be courted by a strong and mannerly cavalier. The portrait of the southern belle in the popular novels published before the Civil War was that of an intelligent (although not particularly well-educated) young woman with impeccable morals who seeks a gallant man to marry for love. After the war, the fiction set in the period of the 1860s and 1870s tended to allegorize the belle as a symbol of the "fallen south." Seidel notes in her succeeding chapters how the image of the belle changed in the twentieth century, during the period of southern literary renaissance, the Depression era, and the post-World War II era. *The Southern Belle in the American Novel* was published by the University of South Florida Press, Tampa, and sells for \$10.00.

Paperback reprints of Frederick Lewis Allen's *Since Yesterday* and *The Big Change* have been published by Harper and Row in its Perennial Library series. *Since Yesterday* covers the years, 1929-1939, and *The Big Change* deals with the half-century from 1900 to 1950. *Since Yesterday* sells for \$6.95, and *Big Change*, \$7.95.

For the bicentennial celebration of the United States Constitution, Brown and Company have reissued two histories by Catherine Drinker Bowen in paperback editions. They are *Miracle at Philadelphia: The Story of the Constitutional Convention, May to September 1787*, and *The Most Dangerous Man in America: Scenes from the Life of Benjamin Franklin*. *Miracle at Philadelphia* sells for \$8.95, and *Most Dangerous Man*, \$8.95.