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Book Reviews

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BOOK REVIEWS

Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings: Sojourner at Cross Creek. By Elizabeth Silverthorne. (Woodstock, NY: The Overlook Press, 1988. 374 pp. Preface, acknowledgments, photographs, bibliography, and index. \$19.95.)

In September of 1936, Maxwell Perkins, the famous editor at Scribner's, wrote to his protégée Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings in the North Carolina mountains where she was recovering from the malaria she had contracted at her Cross Creek, Florida, farm, to ask if she could interrupt her work on the manuscript of *The Yearling* to visit another of his writers, F. Scott Fitzgerald, in nearby Asheville. Fitzgerald was suffering not only a dislocated shoulder and a broken clavicle, but also feelings of despair and an inability to write. In addition, he was drying out from too much drinking. Rawlings complied, and during a long afternoon together she and Fitzgerald shared, along with a bottle of sherry and generous quantities of port, various insights on life and the difficulties of writing. To Perkins she wrote that from personal experience she understood "the feeling of cosmic despair" that Fitzgerald suffered, but unlike him she always expected the crest of the wave to have a consequent and inevitable trough, whereas Fitzgerald had expected the crest to last forever.

As the Elizabeth Silverthorne biography, *Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, Sojourner at Cross Creek*, reveals, Rawlings suffered to an even greater degree than Fitzgerald from a sense of cosmic despair, a lack of faith in her writing abilities, a continuing problem with alcohol, and major battles with illness and injuries. In the Silverthorne biography, Rawlings is the shuttle that weaves together national and international literary and political figures over two decades into the rich tapestry of Florida history. Brief vignettes chronicle this interweaving: Marjorie's home in the orange groves at Cross Creek is a regular stopover on Robert Frost's annual visit to Florida. Rawlings joins her dear friend Margaret Mitchell at the world premiere of "Gone With The Wind." Rawlings meets Ernest Hemingway aboard a yacht in Bimini. Years later, she and Norton Baskin, her second hus-

band, take Hemingway and his soon-to-be third wife, Martha Gellhorn, home to their Crescent Beach, Florida, cottage after a chance encounter at Marineland. Zora Neale Hurston and she share literary and personal moments in the days when society required Hurston to use the "service entrance" and at a time when Marjorie was enraged because another black woman had been arrested for swimming in the ocean at "restricted" Crescent Beach. A Rabelaisian evening with Thomas Wolfe and Maxwell Perkins ends at 4:30 A.M. in New York's Fulton Street fish market with Wolfe screaming a diatribe against suicide. Rawlings writes of Wallace Stevens: "He spent the evening at Cross Creek being disagreeable and obstreperous, got drunk, and read his poems with deliberate stupidity."

Silverthorne also includes Rawlings's encounters with national and international political figures. Rawlings sleeps in the Lincoln bedroom when Eleanor Roosevelt invites her to the White House. In the spring of 1949, "a nice young man" interviews Rawlings, and years later she is startled to recognize him as Whittaker Chambers, supplying evidence against Alger Hiss to the House Committee on Un-American Activities. Fifteen months before his death, Jan Masaryk, the Czechoslovakian foreign minister, and Marcia Davenport spend the Christmas holidays at Cross Creek.

Florida celebrities are abundant in the biography. A long-term correspondence with Marjory Stoneman Douglas and a friendship with Verle and Edith Pope are but two examples. Marjorie's experiences with Ross Allen on a rattlesnake hunt in Big Prairie are likewise included. Projects such as Rawlings's unfinished works on Zephaniah Kingsley and on Ellen Glasgow both will probably yield great historical treasure to future researchers.

Regrettably, the publishers removed Silverthorne's footnotes, limiting the book for scholarly use. However, the volume is thoroughly researched with assistance from a number of archives and libraries, as well as interviews with Norton Baskin and relatives who provided the author with remembrances, letters, and pictures. Though offering no unique insights into Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings's personality or writings, the chronological form of this personal biography of the 1939 Pulitzer Prize winning author makes for very easy reading.

Florida Community College

EDNA SAFFY

Creeks and Seminoles: Destruction and Regeneration of the Muscogulge People. By J. Leitch Wright, Jr. (Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press, 1987. xv, 383 pp. List of maps, series editor's introduction, preface, list of abbreviations, notes, bibliography, index. \$35.00.)

In this final publication of well-known Florida historian, J. Leitch Wright, the multi-themed course of Creek and Seminole history receives a new interpretation asserting the existence of two opposing "ethnic factions" within this population. According to Wright, from the time of the American Revolution until well after the Civil War, major events in the lives of all these people were determined by the opposition that developed between the "true Muskogees," or real Creeks, and the "non-Muscogees," composed of Hitchitis, Alabamas, Yuchie, Shawnees, and the Maroon or Negro towns associated with them. Considered as a whole, the two factions are called the "Muscogulge People," a redundant term of questionable utility since "Muscogulge" alone translates "Muscogee people."

It is doubtful that this particular two-faction hypothesis will be acceptable to anyone familiar with Creek society, but the exposition would have been far less muddled if the author had been content to use the serviceable, if imperfect, term "Creek confederacy" instead of "Muscogulge" to describe the assortment of Indians, whites and blacks, refugees, and tribal fragments that lived in the Creek country. Aside from the ethnic faction concept, which should be disregarded, the material in *Creeks and Seminoles* includes interesting and detailed information about aspects of trade, significant periods of hostilities, the extended removal experience, and a fine discussion of the interaction among black communities affiliated with the Indian towns, enslaved blacks, and fugitives.

In his view of southeastern Indian history, Wright has a second but subsidiary theme, the role of the early British Indian traders in introducing western European views and values, along with their aggressive commercial activities, that effectively gained control of the Indian population. Wright calls these traders the "Goose Creek men," referring to the early geographic base for the southern Indian trade near Charleston. He contends that the Indians perceived Georgians as the heirs of the Goose Creek men, and characterizes Andrew Jackson as the last of the category. In the chapter entitled "Manifest Destiny," the

author sees American domination of the Creeks, accomplished in large measure by Indian agent Benjamin Hawkins, as the precursor of American rule over Hawaiians and Samoans.

The historical developments discussed in *Creeks and Seminoles* cover the rivalry of Spanish, French, British, and American governments in the Southeast, but highlight the continuity of events commencing with the Creek War of 1813, a military adjunct to the War of 1812, when Jackson carried out his initial campaign against the Creeks. The author points out the direct connection between the Creek War and the conflagration known as the First Seminole War that broke out in 1818. He makes clear the vital point that the Second Seminole War, 1835-1842, even more than the earlier hostilities, was as much a Creek civil war as an American army operation against Florida Indians. Slave-holding Creeks had as much interest in maintaining their black labor force, and recovering fugitive slaves, as the American plantation owners. Opposition naturally developed between the wealthy slave-holding Creek elite of Georgia and Alabama and the Florida towns that provided refuge for large numbers of black fugitives.

Wright estimates that prior to the beginning of removal, the combined population of the Creeks and Seminoles, their Indian allies, whites or "Indian countrymen," and the black constituency, together totaled 55,000 to 60,000 people. The Third Seminole War, 1855-1858, occurred after the relocation of most of the Creeks and Seminoles, voluntarily and involuntarily, either in the Indian territory or in Mexican Texas and adjoining provinces. But many fled to secluded sections of Florida and Alabama, some becoming identified as blacks and others emerging later to join kinfolk in Oklahoma.

For anyone exploring the field of Creek and Seminole history, this book should not be the first source consulted. A more realistic introduction can be found in William Sturtevant's essay, "Creek into Seminole," in *North American Indians in Historical Perspective*, edited by Eleanor B. Leacock and Nancy O. Lurie, and Michael D. Green, *The Politics of Indian Removal, Creek Government and Society in Crisis*. The best perception of the individual Creek towns and their offshoots that came to comprise the Seminoles is found in Richard Sattler's unpublished dissertation on the Seminoles completed at the University of Oklahoma in 1987. The Indian communities in Florida had their origin in

Creek towns, not in tribal entities, though it is important to be aware that the Hitchiti language as well as Muskogean dialects were spoken in Florida Indian towns.

Wright apparently completed this book before he had gained a real understanding of Indian society and the diversity of minorities that existed in every Indian community. He was conspicuously in error in believing that most of the Shawnee lived in the Creek country and that his ethnic factions constituted a moiety system.

The illustrations feature not only Indian leaders, but unusual items gleaned from manuscript sources. There are two sketch maps of Florida locations, the Panton, Leslie warehouse on the upper St. Johns River, and Bowlegs town on the Suwannee. The three maps prepared for the publication are too small and restricted in information to be satisfactory. The map of white settlements has the legend "New Switzerland" (Francisco Fatio's plantation on the lower St. Johns River) at the position on the Atlantic seacoast approximately corresponding to New Smyrna.

The Newberry Library

HELEN HORNBECK TANNER

Apalachee: Land Between the Rivers. By John H. Hann. (Gainesville: University Presses of Florida, 1988. xiii, 450 pp. Foreword, preface, introduction, tables and illustrations, appendixes, glossary, bibliographical essay, bibliography, index. \$36.00.)

John Hann's outstanding study of colonial Apalachee is a treasure chest for researchers, especially scholars already familiar with the basic history of Florida's first Spanish period. The exhaustive details provided in his text, superb appendixes, and invaluable bibliographic essay and bibliography fill a void in colonial Florida's history which hitherto focused mainly on the conquistadores and the eastern part of the peninsula because of the Spanish preoccupation with that area, notwithstanding Apalachee's eventual predominant economy, population, and evangelical activity. A comprehensive glossary and pertinent maps, sketches, and tables aid in following and understanding the meticulous text. Periodic summaries also help readers grasp

the essence of their preceding minute discussions. Appendix 1 "Chronology for San Luis and Apalachee," is a splendid brief introductory summary of Apalachian history for the newcomer in the field and a valuable refresher for the veteran.

Concentrating on the Apalachee Indians and their relations with the Spaniards during the seventeenth century, Hann also touches on the prehistoric natives and their contacts with the conquistadores and portrays their post-mission story through the end of the first Spanish era, to 1763-1764. By synthesizing available historical and archaeological data, Hann admirably succeeds in his stated purpose of exploring the Apalachee culture, government, language, and population trends, as well as the establishment and growth of Spanish Florida's northwestern Christian missions, Spanish-Indian acculturation, mission economy, native demoralization, the destruction of the missions, and the extinction of the Apalachee as a distinct people.

Some repetitious narration in the text perhaps is inevitable when discussing such interrelated topics in separate chapters. Especially in Hann's treatment of the Indian ball game, Colonel Moore's letters reporting his assault on Apalachee, and the various lists of missions, villages, and population in great detail in both the text and appendixes do we find considerable, questionable repetition. In the interest of brevity some of the detailed coverage in the text could be reduced to references in the pertinent appendixes.

Though Hann strives for objectivity, his conclusions on the Franciscan treatment of the Indians and the lack of Indian complaints against the friars (chapter 11) do not appear to weigh adequately several significant factors, among which are the missionaries' condemnation of themselves by strenuously objecting to various governors' decrees prohibiting their mistreatment of the natives— to them an essential tool in their evangelical work. Also, the successor to Rebolledo, one of Hann's "suspect" governors, backed Rebolledo's version of his feud with the religious. Likewise, not only Governor Cabrera's successor, but also the Franciscan commissary general of the Indies, the crown, and in 1688, after Cabrera's abdication, Visitor General Father Machado, all supported Cabrera's charges against the Franciscans. Significantly, the stated lack of Indian complaints against the friars could have been due to their fear of their religious mentors (or concern for their salvation). Even Bishop Calderon

during his 1675 visitation reported the Indians to be “in such subjection” to their priest “that they obey his orders without question.”

Hann’s meticulous translations and exhaustive, well-reasoned analyses reemphasize the historian’s dilemma and show again that definitive conclusions often remain noble objectives when dealing with sources as inconsistent, contradictory, biased, and sketchy as those used. As Hann admits, much speculation and estimation necessarily govern conclusions about such items as mission locations, populations, and casualties, among others. However, Hann also shows that coordinated archaeological effort clarifies, even resolves, some of the conflicts and fills in missing pieces of the puzzles. Further, as Hann hopes, *Apalachee* provides inspiration and fertile source for current and future scholars in the field— the greatest contribution of his monumental book.

Seattle, Washington

ROBERT A. MATTER

Navy Gray: A Story of the Confederate Navy on the Chattahoochee and Apalachicola Rivers. By Maxine Turner. (University: University of Alabama Press, 1988. xv, 357 pp. Preface, prologue, illustrations, epilogue, appendixes, notes, bibliography, index. \$24.95.)

A river system a little over 300 miles long running from the small industrial town of Columbus, Georgia, to the even smaller seaport of Apalachicola, Florida, is the locale for Maxine Turner’s study of the Confederate Navy’s attempts to thwart the Union Navy’s blockade throughout the Civil War. This is a microscopic slice of the Confederate States of America. Her historical arena is even more unusual in that it contained no great battles to determine the war, no dashing sea chases to enliven the narrative, nor any devious plots to promote blockade-running. Yet *Navy Gray* does contain an interesting perspective of how the two navies struggled, one to overthrow and the other to enforce, the most significant strategic naval policy of the war, the blockade.

Opening with a history of the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee river system, Turner develops her contention that here is a

model of the Confederacy embodying the essence of the South. Columbus, surrounded by plantations, had the established industry, and Apalachicola had the seaport to export cotton and import the manufactured items necessary for this society. Her narrative of the people of this region, especially the leisured and educated class, demonstrates her complete familiarity with local sources. It is an excellent opening to bring the reader up to the war.

According to Turner's research, the Union blockade of the port of Apalachicola was not effective, but was made more so by the actions of the Confederacy. That is, the deep draft blockaders could not approach the port, and there were too few ships to watch all of the shallow water channels leaving that port. But the defenders enabled the blockade to operate successfully because Confederate troops were needed elsewhere. Then the area's cotton was needed inland which caused the flow of traffic to be reversed, and, it moved upriver to the rail system for internal distribution. Finally, most of the unprotected people of the port fled inland to escape the blockaders. Thus the United States Navy's blockade succeeded, and the major effort of the Union sailors during the war was to try to relieve the boredom of anchoring off a backwater port.

Navy Gray's thesis is that the officers of the Confederate Navy desired to serve the Confederacy and to fight for the cause they believed in, but they were hamstrung by lack of organization, the political demands of national and state organizations, and the economic wrenching caused by secession. All of this hampered the construction of ships needed to break the blockade. Then too, the Confederate Army constructed obstructions along the Apalachicola River to keep the Union Navy out, which also kept the Confederate Navy in! To this add the vagaries of nature, such as the rising and falling of river waters at the most inappropriate times, and it becomes apparent why the Confederate Navy on the Chattahoochee and Apalachicola rivers was inactive and ineffective.

Turner does not write about abstract societal organizations; she writes of the men who labored to construct the ships to break the blockade. Her knowledge of local sources enabled her to narrate an interesting story of this small corner of the Confederacy. This is an intriguing view of naval matters upon a relatively unknown river system. However, one comes away with

the feeling that the core of southern industrial might was to be found at the Columbus Naval Iron Works and the Confederate Navy Yard in Columbus, Georgia. Only after perusing several other works on the Confederate Navy, where the naval facilities at Columbus, Georgia, were but briefly mentioned, was this reader brought back to a more accurate historical perspective. This is a tribute to Maxine Turner's *Navy Gray*.

Jacksonville University

GEORGE E. BUKER,
Professor Emeritus

Tropical Splendor: An Architectural History of Florida. By Hap Hatton. (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1987. xii, 210 pp. Acknowledgments, introduction, photographs and illustrations, credits, select bibliography, index. \$40.00.)

The reader is warned by the first sentence in the Introduction: "This is a book about surreal real estate, about a land where buildings are fun and fantastic." Fair enough. This beautifully designed and illustrated volume presents a copious assortment of buildings spread from St. Augustine to Seaside, from Key West to Pensacola, well, not quite to Pensacola or innumerable other real places. But forget serious inquiry; heed the warning and enjoy the tropical splendor.

The text is written as a series of anecdotes placed within an historic context. The style is informal and is intended for the general public. Most chapters begin with a general historical background of the chapter topic, and the theme is developed with detailed descriptions of certain events and individuals associated with notable architectural examples illustrating the theme. Although the chapters are arranged in rough chronological order, each chapter is essentially a self-contained essay.

The book begins with a brief chapter of the first 300 years and quickly turns to Flagler, Plant, and Deering; frame vernacular structures; major figures in the Florida Boom of the 1920s; and the work of several major architects from Frank Lloyd Wright and Henry Klutho to Philip Johnson and Architectonica. The focus then turns to the "folk architects" responsible for such curiosities as Coral Castle and Solomon's Castle and the "personal fantasies" realized in Frederic Bartlett's Bonnet

House, the Bok Tower, Marjorie Merriwether Post's Mar-A-Lago, and several other remarkable sites. The final chapters address the camping trailer and mobile home, roadside attractions including Disney World, and the historic preservation movement in Florida.

As a whole, the book brings together in a handsome and easily read format selected aspects of Florida architecture that are interesting and unique. More a tour guide and introduction to major trends and sites than a history, it does not pretend to be definitive. Nevertheless, many areas of the state, particularly in the north and west, will feel slighted, and many readers may question the selection and emphasis of topics and the lack of a clear relationship between them. The final chapter dealing with the historic preservation movement in Florida is inadequate. This criticism, however, will not lessen the value of the book as a useful guide for the general public and as a quick though undocumented guide for the specialist.

University of Florida

HERSCHEL E. SHEPARD

The Evolution of the Calusa: A Nonagricultural Chieftdom on the Southwest Coast of Florida By Randolph J. Widmer. (University: University of Alabama Press, 1988. xv, 334 pp. Preface, tables and figures, summary and conclusions, references cited, index. \$18.95.)

Those readers who select this book expecting a culture history on the Calusa as depicted by the several available sixteenth-century Spanish narrations might be surprised to discover that they are reading an anthropological and environmental review of the prehistory of southwest Florida. Widmer has researched the subject well. He presents the Calusa through the most current relevant social and economic anthropological theories and squarely sets their development within the confines of environmental determinism. The development of the Calusa's complex society, which includes hierarchal leadership and organized labor for mound construction and warfare, occurs within a non-agricultural subsistence system, a rare occurrence in North America because chiefdoms generally evolve as an aspect of agricultural development. Widmer convincingly demonstrates that

the abundant marine resources of southwest Florida's coast accounts for the area's complex cultural development.

Widmer mines the available archaeological data, despite its current deficiencies, with intellectual persistence and combines it with a wealth of environmental data to reconstruct a diachronic view of south Florida that acknowledges, in particular, the importance of sea level changes, with concurrent subsistence pattern shifts, and the dynamics of a changing environment in regard to cultural adaptation and processes.

His chapter on a summary of the history of archaeological research in southwest Florida is excellent because Widmer gleans the most significant contributions of archaeologists like Cushing, Hrdlicka, and Goggin and provides light on aspects of their work that other scholars have not appreciated or have ignored. If there is any shortcoming to this chapter, it is only that the contributions and extensive recent field work of the Southwest Florida Archaeological Society is not included, largely because their data is still unpublished.

In his chapter outlining the area's prehistory, Widmer carefully reviews the data and critically assesses the area's prehistoric chronology, doing a good job of establishing the Archaic period or "Pre-Glades periods" roots of Calusa subsistence, noting that only the absence of pottery appears to separate the Pre-Glades and the Glades periods general material culture. In fact, based on environmental data Widmer theorizes that Calusa adaptation did not occur until 2,700 B.P. (ca. 700 B.C.), and that the environmental causes of this development occurred just after the sea level stand of 5,000 B.P. when the optimal estuarine environment with its plentiful marine life began to develop in southwest Florida. According to Widmer, the full level of chiefdom complexity was achieved by 800 A.D. and continued to the time of European contact.

One of the limitations in this book's weighty theoretical approach is that Widmer sometimes forges the available archaeological data beyond its limits and constructs hypotheses without adequate proof. One example of this is his interpretation of the voluminous data from the four-year archaeological survey of the Big Cypress Preserve. Although this extensive survey of 394 archaeological sites used minimal sampling techniques that were particularly biased against locating discrete features such as human burials, Widmer concludes that human

burials are rare in Big Cypress sites and omits mention of the several sand burial mounds located in the area. In addition, drawing from other sources, he fails to note the relatively common occurrence of human burials uncovered in Everglades black dirt middens which he describes as being "exceptions." Despite these deficiencies, Widmer's case for the secondary resource value of the south Florida Big Cypress interior in contrast to the primary value of the coastal zone is convincing.

The reader with an archaeological and environmental bent can only find satisfaction with Widmer's book. It is an important contribution to the archaeology of south Florida, and his explorations of the environmental effects on cultural development will be welcomed by interested scholars and students alike.

Metro-Dade Historic Preservation Division
Miami, Florida

ROBERT S. CARR

Treasures of the Chipola River Valley. By H. L. Chason. (Tallahassee: Father and Son Publishing, 1987. 239 pp. Dedication, foreword, maps and illustrations, glossary, bibliography. \$24.95.)

It is difficult to provide an overall assessment of this book. Chason's purpose in writing *Treasures of the Chipola River Valley* appears to be an attempt to illustrate and classify the many chip-ped stone spearheads he has recovered from the Chipola River. He makes an admirable effort to accomplish his goal, but he creates, in my opinion, a great deal more confusion and complexity than is necessary.

A brief history of the Chipola River is provided, but a sizable portion of the book is devoted to personal accounts of the river and the changes it has undergone throughout Chason's lifetime of seventy-plus years. One reads of smart dogs he has owned and birds he has befriended. He laments the passing (as a result of timber cutting, row cropping, silting, and pollutants) of many of the animal species in the area, particularly birds. Then, however, he proudly recalls the number of quail he has killed.

My major objections to the *Treasures of the Chipola River Valley* are twofold. First, Chason confesses that he is not an ar-

chaeologist— not even an amateur archaeologist. Having excused himself in this manner, he proceeds to classify all of the points he has recovered from the Chipola by comparing them to pictures he has seen in reference works from around the United States. Chason is definitely a “splitter” instead of a “lumper” when it comes to nomenclature. He would have the reader believe that he has found stone spearheads that originated in California, New York, and the Plains area. All of the illustrations, however, fall easily within a range of variation for typical Florida points. He does not seem to take into account the fact that individual skills in knapping, stone quality, or reworking will often result in a specimen that deviates from the “ideal” type but could still be classified as that type. It is difficult to determine if Chason is suggesting that the points actually came from those far away places or if the idea about their shape diffused into Florida. The only way to find out if the material originated from a source outside of Florida is to conduct elemental analysis. Most of all the illustrations are of very high quality, and I believe they would have been of more value if they had not been accompanied by what may prove to be erroneous information. Second, Chason has done what most amateurs do and that is recover only the spearheads from the river, leaving other equally informative specimens behind because they are uninteresting to the collector. Surviving artifacts made of durable materials, like stone, are only a small portion of the cultural inventory made and used by former inhabitants. By selecting only portions of what remains, i.e., the “perfect” points, amateur collectors make it even more difficult to interpret past behavior. The author says he made an appointment with an archaeologist to obtain assistance. It is too bad the archaeologist did not show up. I hope it was not I.

Chason attempts to flesh out the past by writing several short stories, which he clearly labels as conjecture, to explain the circumstances surrounding some of the specimens he has found. These accounts of caches, foreshafts, large spear points, broken points, and the alligator jaw prop are well written and could stand alone as fiction. As the saying goes, “it’s anybody’s guess,” and his guess is as good as another. He speculates about events that are unknowable but dismisses other problems as unknowable that might have answers if the proper data had been collected.

There are several subjects discussed by Chason that clearly demonstrate that he did not consult the proper individuals or sources for accuracy. Examples include his comments about weathering, a definition of chert (flint), and six-foot tall Indians. He says that BP is a time period from any given time in the past to the present. BP stands for "before present," and before present is 1950 when radiocarbon analysis became available. There are other problems with chronology as well, like associating birdstones and boatstones used with the atlatl to kill elephants. The atlatl was not present during Paleoindian times, and birdstones and boatstones did not occur at least until the Middle Archaic about 6,000 years ago.

The book has few typographical errors, but the misspelling of Folsom, Bolen, and Duval should be noted since these are the names of well-known projectile point types. The physical appearance of the book is beautiful, but the contents perpetuate pothunting and the glory of collecting that make an archaeologist shudder. You cannot tell a book by its cover.

University of Florida

BARBARA A. PURDY

A Creek Sourcebook. Edited with an introduction by William C. Sturtevant. (New York: Garland Publishing, Inc., 1985. 780 pp. List of sources, introduction, references, illustrations. \$110.00.)

A Seminole Sourcebook. Edited with an introduction by William C. Sturtevant. (New York: Garland Publishing, Inc., 1985. 856 pp. List of sources, introduction, references, illustrations. \$130.00.)

Two hundred and fifty years after Juan Ponce de León first claimed La Florida for the Spanish crown in 1513, the native societies of coastal South Carolina and Georgia and all of Florida had disappeared. Cusabo, Guale, Apalachee, Timucuan, Calusa, Tequesta—none of these peoples were able to survive in the face of Spanish, French, and English efforts to colonize the New World. Disease and warfare reduced their populations beyond the ability of survivors to accommodate the European presence and maintain their ethnic identity.

In the interior of the southeastern United States, a region of large and dense native populations at the onset of the colonial period, some aboriginal groups did survive. Geographically removed from the Spanish missions and the coastal European settlements, the ancestors of modern Cherokees, Creek, Choctaw, Chickasaw, and Seminole peoples underwent many cultural changes, including the consolidation and confederation of remnant populations, in order to maintain group identity. All of these groups continue to exist as ethnic entities today.

In two sourcebooks William Sturtevant has assembled much of the previously published anthropological literature on two of these Native American groups, the Creek and the Seminole peoples. The respective articles provide an overview of the cultural changes that occurred as Creeks and Seminoles adjusted to the greatly reduced populations and the new cultural and natural environments from colonial times to the present.

A *Creek Sourcebook* contains twenty-two articles, some monograph length, that provide an interpreted culture history of the Creek Indians from the formation of the Creek Confederacy (ca. 1700) up to the present. Works on Creek archaeology, ethnography, and linguistic studies by such scholars as Charles Fairbanks, Albert Gatschet, Frank Speck, John Swanton, and Mary Hass are included with firsthand observations of William Bartram and George Stiggins. These sources, when combined with Swanton's four monographs on the Creeks published in the 1920s (*Early History of the Creek Indians and their Neighbors*, *Social Organization and Social Uses of the Indians of the Creek Confederacy*, *Religious Beliefs and Medical Practices of the Creek Indians*, and *Myths and Tales of the Southeastern Indians*) provide a scholarly overview of the Creek peoples, past and present. Because of their length, however, Swanton's classic studies are not included in the present volume.

Particularly interesting are the four articles by J Anthony Paredes focusing on emerging ethnic identity among modern Creeks in southeast Alabama. Initially stimulated by the University of Florida's Southeast Indian Oral History Project, Paredes's ongoing studies offer informative perspectives on Native Americans of which those of us interested in past cultures often are unaware.

Though not intended as a companion volume to the Creek sourcebook, Sturtevant's *A Seminole Sourcebook* is enhanced when

the two are consulted together. The people referred to as Seminole are the descendants of Muskogee and Hitchiti Creek-speaking peoples who moved southward into Florida in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Today they reside in Oklahoma (the Seminole Nation) and Florida (the Seminole Tribe of Florida, the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida, and other Mikasuki-speakers).

The nineteen articles in the Seminole sourcebook (again, some are monographs) recount the emergence of the Seminole out of the Creeks and their subsequent history vis-a-vis Spain, Britain, and the United States. Sturtevant's own paper, "Creek into Seminole," is an excellent overview of the development of the Seminole and Miccosukee up to the present.

Within the volume there are studies of Seminole archaeology, physical anthropology, and material culture. Many Florida Seminoles were removed to Indian territory in the nineteenth century, an emigration dictated by federal policy and enforced by military actions. Sources on those Seminoles, today residents of Oklahoma, are also included.

As sourcebooks both of these collections succeed admirably. Anyone interested in learning about the Creek or the Seminole peoples will find a wealth of information. Other related pertinent materials are cited in Sturtevant's introductions to the volumes. Hopefully both of these high-priced books will find their ways into libraries where they will fulfill the task envisioned for them: providing easily accessible source materials to teachers, students, and other lay and professional scholars.

Florida Museum of Natural History

JERALD T. MILANICH

Empire of Fortune: Crowns, Colonies, and Tribes in the Seven Years War in America. By Francis Jennings. (New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 1988. xxiv, 520 pp. Maps and illustrations, notes, appendix, bibliography, index. \$27.50.)

Empire of Fortune concludes Francis Jennings's trilogy, "The Covenant Chain," which treats Euro-American colonial relations with the Amerindians, more particularly Anglo-Iroquois relations. As indicated by its subtitle, this volume focuses upon the Anglo-French-Indian struggle from the 1750s to 1763, with

clear intent to show that "The American Revolution began with the Seven Years War" (p. 138).

Jennings's first stated aim is to illuminate the role of Indians caught between warring European empires and American colonists; he treats the Indians in great detail, fully redressing the imbalance in favor of Europeans that generally characterize American histories. That in itself is welcome, refreshing, and important. The war is presented in episodic detail and slashing generalization that is sometimes enlightening and other times just aggravating, in any case limited to the American scene—which the Seven Years' War was not. The rising spirit of colonial independence receives its share of praise, for Jennings sees it as the morally proper response to a sinister British scheme to establish a military despotism over the colonists. Interesting to note is that that dastardly plot seems to have begun on the battlefield of Culloden (Scotland, 1746) under the aegis of Butcher Billy, duke of Cumberland. Finally, the author does full justice to the pacific efforts of Pennsylvania and British Quakers whose Indian diplomacy did much (far more than that of Sir William Johnson) to enable the Anglo-Americans to win the war. For these reasons, the book will interest colonial historians. Jennings says nothing of Florida or the old Southwest—though he might have done so.

Empire of Fortune will attract attention for other reasons as well, for Jennings is a bloodthirsty revisionist whose chief victims are safely dead: Francis Parkman, a "stupidly vicious" mysogynist who wrote "novels, miscalled histories"; Lawrence Gipson, whose "adulation of the British Empire . . . embarrasses even an anglophile" (pp. 125-26, 171).

When he turns on the English participants in the narrative, Jennings becomes truly frenetic. Bedford and Halifax (who dared to sneer and were "notorious") are "champions of the royal prerogative"; Cumberland "contrived" the Seven Years' War; George III's "minions" enjoyed "full control of Parliament," and "there is no doubt of the king's direct, personal complicity" in the repression of Englishmen on both sides of the Atlantic (pp. 114, 125, 469). Lord North's normal ministerial duty to the king makes him an "informer"! References to John Wilkes and Tom Paine are supposed to validate such views. Wolfe engaged in terrorism at Quebec; Amherst urged germ warfare at Fort Pitt. On the other hand, Indian cannibalism and

scalping are but cultural foibles, and Native American duplicity constitutes shrewd "rationality" (pp. 402, 446). It is regrettable that the book's virtues should be smeared with diatribe which is justified by the author as candor and honesty (p. 481). Francis Jennings finds it highly gratifying; his readers may be allowed their own opinions.

Auburn University

ROBERT R. REA

South Carolina Loyalists in the American Revolution. By Robert Stansbury Lambert. (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1987. x, 352 pp. Preface, maps, abbreviations and acronyms, bibliography, essay on methods and sources, index. \$29.95.)

The author has presented the clearest overview of the Loyalists in South Carolina during the American Revolution that has been published. Dr. Lambert spent almost twenty-five years in research and writing. His thoroughness in research and scrupulous care in writing have made this work not only the definitive study of South Carolina Loyalists, but also obligatory reading for anyone wanting to study the military history of the Revolution in South Carolina, as well as to understand what a great achievement it was for South Carolinians to establish a new republic after such a savage civil war and to join the new United States. I have learned more from this book about the period 1776 to 1789 than I have learned from any other book in a long time.

The device that the author has used to bring all into focus is a detailed description of the organization of the Loyalist militia which paralleled to a great extent the patriot militia system. Two maps (pp. 109, 114) pin the commanders of the Loyalist regiments to their respective geographic contexts. Zacharias Gibbs, Daniel Plummer, Patrick Cunningham, and Daniel Clary organized the region west of the Broad River; Richard King and John Cotton, Ninety Six District; Mathew Floyd, John Phillips, and James Cary, between the Broad and Catawba-Wateree; John Fisher, the Orangeburg District; Henry Rugeley at Camden and William Henry Mills at Cheraw; along the coast, James Cassells and Elias Ball above Charleston and

Robert William Powell, Robert Ballingall, and Nicholas Lechemere, below Charleston. The chaos of skirmishes has thus been brought under control, most importantly for the backcountry which is the crucial landscape for what Lambert has called the "Second Revolution" (May 1780-December 1782).

A further helpful simplification is achieved by reference to the concept of a "hinge." "It is useful to think of the British position in the South Carolina backcountry as a whole, composed of two parts joined by a kind of hinge, with one part facing North Carolina and the other facing Georgia to the west." The "hinge" itself was "most vulnerable to a sudden blow . . . where the two frontiers converged along the upper Broad River and its tributaries eastward to the Catawba" (p. 132). Kings Mountain was near the "hinge," and there the American tide turned on October 7, 1780.

The author also stumbles upon the key to the social history of the backcountry and to the whole South in the antebellum period by pointing out that on both sides the leaders of the militia units were chosen because of "their local standing" rather than "military talent or experience" (p. 108). Provincial troops were organized by authorizing a prominent Loyalist to raise and command a unit (p. 149). "Basic to the whole idea of organizing provincials was that an 'influential' person, usually some one of wealth and standing, could persuade men of local influence to serve as officers" who in turn would "be able to recruit effectively for the ranks of their battalions and companies" (p. 150). The leading neighbor was the only refuge amid the chaos of a civil war. This was a patriarchal society.

The savage and tragic nature of the war in South Carolina was much like the fighting among the clans of Scotland. Massacres were almost commonplace. Tarleton's massacre of Buford's troops, the burning of Hill's ironworks by Christian Huck, the justice meted out to the Loyalists after King's Mountain, the vengeance exacted by Thomas Brown on his Whig prisoners at Augusta— all these "fixed the character of the war in the state." And yet in less than ten years a new state had been formed out of such elements. One has to read Lambert's book in order to comprehend the greatness of the achievements in 1787, 1788, and 1789.

I could find only one error, on page 186, where the name of the man who took protection should have been Henry Mid-

dleton, not his son, the signer Arthur Middleton. The form of indentation for entries in the index makes it most difficult for the user to find the particular entry one wants.

University of South Carolina

GEORGE C. ROGERS, JR.

Cracker Culture: Celtic Ways in the Old South. By Grady McWhiney, with an introduction by Forrest McDonald. (University: University of Alabama Press, 1988. xliii, 290 pp. Preface, prologue, illustrations, notes, appendix, index. \$25.95.)

Until the 1940s historians of the Old South virtually ignored the white masses. The last Frank L. Owsley sought to fill this absurd lacuna with *Plain Folk of the Old South* (1949), his capstone work. *Plain Folk* was flawed, but combined with narrower student studies, it was a propitious start on a very large subject. Unfortunately the "Owsley School" was shortlived. From the 1950s through the early 1970s historians were preoccupied with rewriting the history of plantation slavery. At last, beginning in the mid-1970s Grady McWhiney and Forrest McDonald undertook the white plain folks' story anew. In conference papers and articles they portrayed the wanderings and economies of ordinary Southerners, especially herdsmen. *Cracker Culture* is the culmination of this collaboration.

"Culture" studies (whether accomplished by anthropologists or historians) are usually static, and so is *Cracker Culture*. Following McDonald's long prologue on white Southerners' "ethnic" background, there are chapters on "Settlement" and "Heritage" which lodge immigrants in the American Southeast. Then the book becomes topical in organization, with chapters on "Herd- ing," "Hospitality," "Pleasure," "Violence," "Morals," "Educa- tion," "Progress," and "Worth" – all of which assert continuity in southern "ways" from the mid-eighteenth century to the Civil War. White north Floridians may or may not be charmed by inclusion of their ancestors in this scheme.

Readers of McDonald's and McWhiney's previous writings were forewarned that their project was empathically ethno- graphic. Most white Southerners are "Celtic." (Yankees are "Eng- lish.") Celtic ways were set in stone already when ancient Greeks and Romans described them as nomadic, drunken, musical,

filthy, lazy, immoral, and suicidally warlike. When seventeenth-through nineteenth-century Englishmen observed the Irish, Scots, Welsh, and the Cornish, they were the same Celts. Transported to America, such folk moved every other year, lived in windowless log houses, ranged hogs and cattle in the woods, raised a little cotton but more corn for whiskey, shot and stabbed each other over matters of "honor," worked as little as possible, despised bourgeois values (including organized worship), and finally, waged suicidal war against their cultural enemies, the Yankees.

Owsley's plain folk were rustic and clannish, but on the whole they were a respectable sort who, despite a few slaves here and there, resembled antebellum northern farming people. More recent studies (e.g., by Edward L. Ayers and James Oakes) have also demonstrated the erosion of white Southerners' premodern "culture of violence" throughout the antebellum era. The spread of evangelical Christianity in particular is thought to have hastened convergence of southern and northern ways. But McWhiney adamantly rejects middle class respectability and the diachronic. His chapters on "Morals," "Education," and "Progress" are dedicated to the negative; and "Worth" is a celebration of static premodernism.

So *Cracker Culture* is a preverse Lamarckian work: early acquired behaviors triumph over environment. Thus Southerners hated sheep and made poor milk and cheese because Celtic ancestors did the same. Sheep-eating wild animals and a climate too hot for dairying (before electrical refrigeration) are of no significance. And descendants of scofflaw Celts inevitably jaywalk in Dallas today.

Static ethnographies are typically based upon outsiders' observations, and so is *Cracker Culture*. McWhiney has employed the censuses and Southerners' diaries here and there. Mostly he relies upon travelers' accounts. Chapters juxtapose Yankees' hostile observations of the white South with Englishmen's equally prejudiced views of Ireland and Scotland. The paradox is that McWhiney agrees with bigoted outsiders.

The objective of this strange volume is unambiguously missionary; in "a nation in which slurs based on race, ethnicity, or religion have become strictly taboo," McWhiney writes, "it is still acceptable to lampoon Crackers as a group" (p. xv). This is sadly true, but unlike Owsley (who had a similar mission), McWhiney

relishes a species of racial pride in the slurs themselves. One is reminded of the 1950s southern comedian, "Brother Dave" Gardner, who proposed a National Association for the Advancement of White Trash. *Cracker Culture* might have been a handbook for the NAAWT, but there is no room for humor in a crusade.

Miami University

JACK TEMPLE KIRBY

Banking in the American South from the Age of Jackson to Reconstruction. By Larry Schweikart. (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1987. xiv, 367 pp. Acknowledgments, list of abbreviations and short forms, introduction, tables, notes, appendix, bibliography, index. \$35.00.)

In this study, Professor Schweikart presents a thorough review of the early banking history of the South until the end of the Civil War. He notes that there was considerable difference in attitudes toward banking in the "Old South" states of Virginia, the Carolinas, Georgia, and Louisiana from those of the "New South"—Tennessee, Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, and Mississippi. He does not include Texas and West Virginia in his study.

The Old South states were more commercial minded than those of the New South and more influenced by foreign contacts. In neither region was there a banker class as such, and there was frequent upward mobility by bank employees. Nor did planters dominate banking. In fact, in most areas, the author says, planters needed the endorsement of a reputable factor to cash or discount their notes.

As for the Panic of 1837, the author generally supports Peter Temin's thesis that the British increase in interest rates in 1836, rather than Jackson's Specie Circular, caused the panic, "but many specifics should be revised when dealing with the South" (p. 64). Banks in the Old South, with no large-scale state involvement, weathered the depression better than those of the New South. Some New South states witnessed the total collapse of their financial systems because of their regulatory policies. He explains these. Also, after the panic, "hard money" men tended to dominate the Democratic party.

Professor Schweikart discusses the different types of banks in the South, chartered and unchartered. Many states experimented with state-owned banks. Those in the New South sooner or later ran afoul with financial difficulties. By contrast, the Bank of the State of South Carolina was operated successfully throughout its existence. But all state-owned banks encountered political opposition.

In dealing with public policy and banking regulations, the author discusses these issues state by state, often bank by bank. He concludes that throughout the South Jacksonians' policy responses to banking had run the gamut, "from opposition to the national bank . . . to opposition to private banks but not state banks, to opposition to all banks, and finally to the acceptance of private banks but not state banks" (p. 40). By the 1850s the Democrats had dropped banking as a political issue.

From state to state there was a variety of opinion regarding banks and their regulation. Both political parties moved toward centralization of banks, with the Whigs generally preferring power in the legislature rather than the executive department. In some cases there was little difference between Whig and Democratic policies. The economic division in southern society between plantation agriculture and commerce and industry did not always follow party lines.

In delving into banks' investments and credits, the author says that the South did not lack for capital, that banks greatly aided in the development of railroads, and, to a lesser extent, manufacturing, but bankers generally did not intend to generate an industrial revolution in the South. In noting reasons for the failure of industry to make a greater inroad in the South, the author overlooks the fact that northern industry was too well established for successful southern competition during the latter's "industrial crusade" of the 1840s.

On the eve of the Civil War, southern banks, with some \$61,000,000 capital, were doing a creditable job in every state except Arkansas, Mississippi, and Florida. Bankers were loyal to the Confederacy and aided the cause as best they could. However, loyalty, taxes, inflation, wartime destruction, and the Republican National Bank Act effectively buried them.

This book is filled with valuable statistical charts and tables, many vignettes about individual banks and bankers, but the detail is difficult to absorb. Moreover, the author is repetitious in

places, and at times his language is not clear enough for the general reader to grasp easily. This study, however, will be highly useful for specialists in economics and economic history and will serve as a fine reference tool for others.

Clemson University

ERNEST M. LANDER, JR.

Judah P. Benjamin: The Jewish Confederate. By Eli N. Evans. (New York: The Free Press, 1988. xxi, 469 pp. Prologue, photographs, epilogue, notes, selected bibliography, acknowledgments, index. \$24.95.)

In his delightful personal history of Jews in the South entitled *The Provincials* (1973), Eli N. Evans of North Carolina gave us the first and most important view thus far of the southern Jewish experience as it had evolved over two centuries. With that volume, Evans moved the Jews of the South a bit closer to the center of southern social, economic, and political life and away from the periphery of things. Yet his history remained highly impressionistic and unscholarly.

Fifteen years later, he has presented us with a brilliantly written and scholarly biography of Judah Philip Benjamin (1811-1884), the enigmatic "brains of the Confederacy," whose life as a Jew and as a political leader of the Confederate States of America, despite five previously published volumes about him, remained (in the spirit of Winston Churchill) "an enigma wrapped in a mystery." In 400-plus pages, Evans has lessened the enigma and crystallized the mystery, but not entirely. A host of contradictions remain regarding Benjamin who, in Evans's opinion, "achieved greater political power than any other Jew in the nineteenth century— perhaps even in all American history."

Evans fully grounds Benjamin in Judaism. Benjamin's father was one of the leaders of the Reformed Society of Israelites in Charleston, and the boy was apparently confirmed at the age of thirteen. Yet to Benjamin, Judaism was a great burden, "an inhibition to advancement, a restraint upon success." He reportedly asked his mother why she named him Judah. "You might as well have written Jew across my forehead," he is supposed to have informed her. Benjamin's position as a slave owner is freely

admitted, but Evans paints Benjamin as a humane slave owner who hated the cruelty of the plantation overseer and never believed that "slavery reflected the divine order of things." Yet at the height of the Civil War he wrote to a friend about his plans for a Confederate Emancipation Proclamation so that the freed slaves could take up arms for the Confederacy. In the letter, however, he still referred to slaves as "that inferior race."

Perhaps the strangest contradiction may be found in Benjamin's friendship with the president of the Confederacy, Jefferson Davis. After an illustrious career as a brilliant lawyer and one of the first two Jewish members of the United States Senate (the other United States senator was Florida's David Levy Yulee), Benjamin served throughout the existence of the Confederate government as its attorney general, secretary of war, and secretary of state. He became President Davis's closest and most trusted advisor.

Yet at the end of the Civil War, when Jefferson Davis wrote his two-volume memoir of that conflict, he mentioned the name of Judah P. Benjamin only once, and that only in recalling that he had invited Benjamin to become attorney general. Why the slight? I believe the answer lies in the position of the Jews within nineteenth century southern society, a position which allowed them to service the widely spread economic needs of the region as peddlers and storekeepers but which had its boundaries as well. Southern Jewish businessmen represented a numerically and politically powerless substitute for the independent middle-class feared by the plantation owners as a potential rival for economic and political power. They fit very well the political and social pattern established and maintained by the southern planter elite and were grateful for its religious and economic benefits.

A similar kind of relationship was maintained between Benjamin and Davis. The latter, as Eli Evans tells us, "had values that were shaped by the Deep South, where the ideal of manhood was a military career and a plantation," and where "men were to be ordered and were duty-bound to obey." For Benjamin the Jew, values were shaped "in a tradition of ideas" where men were to be "persuaded, cajoled, manipulated by self-interest and negation." Both men needed the other's abilities in a time of crisis. Yet, whereas Davis was a true Christian son of the South and was revered as such, sitting and suffering in a prison

for two years after the war had ended, Benjamin was seen as a Jewish "bird of passage," trading his position as southern statesman for an escape to England and a role as a leading international lawyer.

In a semi-feudal society such as the antebellum South, "place" (roots) and a sense of belonging were paramount. No matter how important to that society and its leadership, the Jew was seen as the eternal stranger, as having no roots in that society. Such was the position of Gerson Bleichroeder, the Jewish banker, who for thirty years was an intimate of Chancellor Otto von Bismarck and the symbol of wealth in Bismarck's Imperial Germany. "Iron Chancellor" Bismarck omitted Bleichroeder's name from the first two volumes of his memoir and only mentioned him once, as someone's emissary. Perhaps the truth of this position came from the words of the English attorney general at the banquet marking Judah Benjamin's retirement from the bar. "We were proud of his (Benjamin's) success," the attorney general stated, "for we knew the strength of the stranger among us."

In *Judah Benjamin: The Jewish Confederate*, Eli Evans has moved us even closer to understanding the nature of Jewish life in the South. But he has opened only one further window to that experience. The remaining windows that will reveal southern Jewish life in its full complexities still await their historians.

American Jewish Archives

Abraham J. Peck

Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion

Gettysburg: The Second Day. By Harry W. Pfanz. (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1987. xx, 601 pp. Preface, acknowledgments, maps and illustrations, appendix, notes, bibliography, index. \$34.95.)

This book devotes almost 450 pages of text to the events of a three-hour period, together with some necessary preliminary activities. We watch thousands of men, organized into hundreds of infantry and cavalry regiments and artillery batteries, gather on a complex piece of terrain for one of the single most important days of the Civil War. The work is therefore of massive proportions, bristling with detail down to the regimental level

and sometimes below. The geographical descriptions are extremely precise. The actors are not only generals and colonels, but often privates and sergeants whose reconstructed actions and words the author has assembled from action reports, diaries, memoirs, correspondence, and other contemporary and postwar sources.

On its way to becoming a Civil War classic, this book may well overwhelm all but the hardiest of readers. There are a number of interesting but noncrucial asides, like the page-and-a-half pre-Gettysburg history of the Irish Brigade. Maps, especially in the first eight chapters, are insufficient to support a pattern of description of terrain features that at times distinguish specific buildings on a farmer's property. As for troop movement and placement, the same detail that conveys a sense of realism is also at times nonproductive in helping the reader to understand larger issues and questions.

In several major areas the book is highly successful. First, by analyzing information available to army and corps commanders and reconstructing their decision-making processes, the author furthers our understanding of why the battle progressed as it did. Second, this book makes very clear not only how much specific information we have lost, but also how much officers on the spot did not know, see, hear, or understand. In a book that strives for completeness of detail, it is significant that "probably," "perhaps," "might have," "must have," "ought to have," and their grammatical relatives get used so frequently when explaining the behavior of participants. Third, the reader clearly appreciates the difficulties, particularly fatigue and anxiety, that both armies faced in this battle, and understands the things that encourage men to fight well or poorly.

As for the most important areas of controversy surrounding the battle, the book for all its exhausting detail does not substantially alter prevailing views. Lee's headquarters did not function as efficiently as it might have; Longstreet was reluctant and did not move as rapidly as Lee hoped; the attack could not have gotten started very much before it actually did; there was no likelihood of a Confederate morning assault; and the Confederate plan as designed did not fit the realities of Union strength and deployment. On the Union side, Meade's generalship was competent and decisive if not brilliant; he and Dan Sickles did not communicate as clearly as they should have; Sickles was

aggressive and decisive, but foolish and headed for disaster in occupying the controversial advanced position on the left; and Meade had no intention of withdrawing on the second day, and therefore Sickles "spoke rot" in accusing Meade of such an intention and in attempting to shift blame for the Third Corps' debacle to Meade. Most of these points were well established before this book, and if they continue to be questioned afterwards it will only be because aficionados hate to give them up.

The author is uniquely qualified to write this volume. Following graduate work in Civil War studies at Ohio State University, he pursued a career as a historian with the National Park Service which included ten years as a park historian at Gettysburg. His awareness of the available source material, to say nothing of his intimate knowledge of the field and the battle, is evident. The book is important and enduring. However, it perhaps should not be the reader's first book on Gettysburg, nor should it be a priority choice if one's reading time for Civil War studies is limited.

California State University, Northridge

JAMES E. SEFTON

"Fiction Distorting Fact": Prison Life, Annotated by Jefferson Davis.

Edited by Edward K. Eckert. (Macon: Mercer University Press, 1987. lxxii, 168 pp. Preface, acknowledgments, introduction, illustrations and photographs, author's note, appendix, bibliography, index. \$39.95.)

Five weeks after Confederate authorities had abandoned their capital at Richmond, President Jefferson Davis was captured by Union troops in south Georgia. Federal officials imprisoned Davis at Fort Monroe, Virginia, charging him with treason against the United States. Davis spent over two years in confinement until the weakness of the government's case and popular clamor, both in the North and South, forced his release.

A significant factor in this clamor was the publication in May 1866, of a book entitled *Prison Life of Jefferson Davis* under the name of John J. Craven, a United States medical officer. Serving as Davis's physician for six months in 1865, Craven became the ex-president's principal confidant at Fort Monroe. The physician, in fact, developed a strong respect for his patient, and

through his book apparently intended to publicize the harsh treatment undeservedly imposed upon a kindly, intelligent prisoner. In so doing, *Prison Life* helped sway public opinion and effect Davis's release.

It was not long, however, before rumors spread that the real author of the book was not Dr. Craven, but one Charles G. Halpine, a New York journalist active in Democratic politics. Based on the careful research of David Rankin Barbee (published 1951) and William Hanchett (1969), historians have concluded that Halpine was the author, a "ghost," who approached Craven with the idea for the book and who used the doctor's diary or notes on Davis's confinement. Halpine's aims, as Professor Hanchett noted in his article in the *Journal of American History*, were pecuniary and political. Prison exposés made sensational (and profitable) literature, but Halpine's main motive was to publicize Davis's imprisonment as part of a discreditable Republican program of Reconstruction. Halpine even wrote President Johnson, claiming his book would be "the most powerful campaign document ever issued in this country."

Halpine's skewed motives made *Prison Life* highly questionable as a true account of Jefferson Davis's imprisonment. The ex-president himself highlighted the generous fictionalizations of the book when he entered marginal annotations in his copy. While recognizing the impact of the work, especially in establishing his prestige in the South as a popular "martyr" of the Lost Cause, Davis reacted bitterly to Halpine's fabricated dialogue and exaggerated descriptions. In the margin beside Halpine's colorful account of the ex-president's shackling—Union authorities imprudently had him manacled for five days after his arrival at Fort Monroe—Davis wrote "fiction distorting fact," "coloring laid on," and "gross misrepresentation."

The chief benefit of Edward Eckert's "*Fiction Distorting Fact*" is thus a new edition of Craven's [Halpine's] *Prison Life*, together with Jefferson Davis's significant commentary from his personal volume, which reposes in the Tulane University Library. With the publication of this edition, no longer will historians be able to take Halpine's work at face-value. Verbatim use of the prominent shackling episode—as Burke Davis employed it in *Long Surrender* (1985)—will especially be evidence of careless scholarship.

In a lengthy and not particularly cogent introductory essay, Eckert reviews the details of Davis's not inhumane confinement and the controversies surrounding *Prison Life*. Some of his observations of Davis (e.g., "liked to play the role of martyr") are unsupported. His attempt to place the ex-president in the context of the "Lost Cause myth" seems strained by apparent indecision over Davis's role as either scapegoat or martyr. Moreover, in stating that Davis's "transformation from defeated rebel into martyred hero . . . was immediate," Eckert overlooks the lapse of roughly two decades between Davis's imprisonment and his lionization by Confederate memorializers— an acute point made recently by Gaines Foster's *Ghosts of the Confederacy*.

The editor's essay, however, is at worst no more than a temporary irritation which does not detract from the historiographical significance of bringing into print Jefferson Davis's annotations of *Prison Life*.

Atlanta, Georgia

STEPHEN DAVIS

From Slave South to New South: Public Policy in Nineteenth-century Georgia. By Peter Wallenstein. (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1987. xii, 284 pp. Maps, figures, tables, acknowledgments, introduction, essay on primary sources, notes, bibliography, index. \$27.50.)

This book traces the history of taxing and spending policies in Georgia during the nineteenth century ending in 1915. Professor Wallenstein has described and analyzed the different kinds of taxes levied, who paid the highest and lowest taxes, the sources of both tax and nontax income, and how monies were spent and who were the chief beneficiaries. Throughout the book, he deals with race and class in relation to the costs and benefits of government. This may sound like a dull exercise, but that is not the case. Wallenstein's study is both interesting and highly significant. A study of fiscal policy reveals a great deal about political power and a people's economic and social priorities.

One of the main objectives of the Georgia state government before the Civil War was to keep taxes low. This goal was achieved much of the time because of the large amounts of nontax income from the federal government and profits from

a state-owned bank and the Western and Atlantic Railroad also owned by the state. By 1860, for instance, income from the Western and Atlantic reached \$450,000, more than was derived from all state taxes. The heaviest tax levies were on slaveholders, because of the tax on slaves, and large landowners along with town residents. Residents who owned the most property paid the most taxes. Yeoman farmers enjoyed light tax burdens. The main discriminatory tax was on free blacks. As revenues increased, especially in the 1850s, Georgia lawmakers did not cut taxes, but increased spending for transportation, education, and social welfare programs such as care for the blind, the deaf, and the insane.

During the Civil War, expenditures on social welfare and education were cut, but even then taxes had to be raised to meet the needs of Georgia soldiers and their families. Georgia levied an income tax on manufacturers, and a sales tax, and in general derived an increasing amount of revenue from wealthier citizens.

After 1865 both taxes and spending increased. By the 1870s rural and town real estate provided more than sixty percent of state tax revenues. This compared to only about thirty percent in 1860. Although the state continued to receive some nontax revenue, it was proportionately much less than before the war. In the years following the Civil War, state revenues depended more heavily on the property tax with a greater amount being paid by north Georgia farmers and towns people throughout the state. Black Belt planters paid relatively less because of the loss of their slaves which had been taxed before emancipation.

Expenditures also rose sharply after the Civil War. Education, transportation, and debt service placed heavy demands on the budget, as did the growing social welfare institutions. The expansion of education and social welfare for blacks also required more funds. Despite the proportionate underfunding of social welfare and education for blacks, they did begin to benefit from state spending in the postwar years in a most significant way.

Extensive research, clear presentation, and careful judgments characterize *From Slave South to New South*. It is a book that will be of interest and benefit not only to historians, but to economists and political scientists. One persistent theme emerges from this book. State governments will spend to the

limit of their revenues. If we can judge by nineteenth-century Georgia, spending on social and welfare programs will usually have a higher priority than tax cuts. That was the political reality in the nineteenth century, and it is in the twentieth.

University of Georgia

GILBERT C. FITE

Official Images: New Deal Photography. By Pete Daniel, Merry A. Foresta, Maren Stange, and Sally Stein. (Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1987. xii, 196 pp. List of abbreviations, preface, introduction, notes, photographic sources and credits, list of contributors. \$24.95.)

James Agee observed in *Let Us Now Praise Famous Men* that the camera was "the central instrument of our time." During the 1920s and 1930s technological advances made available the compact Leica camera, extra fast lenses, and flashbulbs; wire services were perfected that transmitted photographs instantaneously; and the popular picture magazines *Fortune*, *Time*, *Life*, and *Look* hit newsstands. Virtually every government office and embassy made use of photography. These so-called official images did not simply document the activities of agencies, but promoted their interests and facilitated certain changes. In a format alternating layouts of photographs with analytical essays that place the images and agencies in historical context, four scholars take a look at some of the New Deal's best publicity machines.

Maren Stange finds that the Farm Security Administration was dedicated to preserving the decency and dignity of rural people, but it actually facilitated the entry of agribusiness—mechanized methods, chemicals, and large scale operations—into the countryside and recorded the exodus of farmers from the land. FSA was a self-censoring agency that shied away from controversial subjects like exploitation and rebellion. The United States Department of Agriculture also used photography to transmit images of progress and break down distrust of the federal government. Well dressed, attractive, and attentive farmers were rolled out for USDA cameras. Pete Daniel refers to these upbeat and orchestrated portrayals as "command performances." While the USDA appeared as a friendly advisor, Daniel argues, in a continuation of the case that he made in his

award winning *Breaking The Land*, technology and government programs transformed agriculture from “labor-intensive to capital-intensive operations, from small to large farms, from a way of life to a way of business” (p. 41). The Civilian Conservation Corps played on images of Paul Bunyan and the spirit of Abe Lincoln. Although CCC photographs projected a bucolic vision of America, Stange discerns that the agency practiced racial quotas, operated segregated camps, and eased machines into the garden. Sally Stein concludes that National Youth Administration photographs placed a disproportionate emphasis on wholesome activities and challenging opportunities, and pictured young people as enjoying themselves and advancing toward the American Dream. Where NYA programs were more advanced than officials were prepared to acknowledge, the commitment to social change was toned down with racially segregated and sexually segmented photographs. And Mary A. Foresta observes that photographers for the Works Projects Administration’s Federal Art Project had a wider latitude to select and edit projects. FAP encouraged photographers to explore creative impulses such as Alexander Alland’s photomurals, and produce works that “educated, entertained, and inspired” (p. 155).

These essays suggest research opportunities in the photograph archives of other government agencies— the Tennessee Valley Authority, Army Corps of Engineers, Rural Electrification Administration, Civil Works Administration, and the Social Security Administration. These treatments also whet our appetite for further and more detailed studies such as Maren Stange’s forthcoming monograph, “Symbols of Ideal Life: Social Documentary Photography in America, 1890-1950.” *Official Images* underscores that the fireside chats, filmstrips, and photography exhibits of the New Deal were part of, in the phrase of the late Warren Sussman, “a culture of sight and sound” that radio, movies, and photography were bringing to America.

University of South Florida, Tampa

ROBERT E. SNYDER

Tall Betsy and Duncie Baby: South Georgia Folktales. By Mariella Glenn Hartsfield. (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1987. xii, 190 pp. Preface, acknowledgments, introduction, appendices, bibliography, index. \$17.95.)

The rich and colorful folklore of Georgia has begun to gain the attention of the reading public. Until recently, however, readers have had access to an abundance of material largely about north Georgia, thanks to the prolific Foxfire organization. South Georgia has gone begging. This volume by Mariella Glenn Hartsfield is one of a very few serious efforts to present the folklore of that vast section of the state south of Atlanta.

She has selected fifty folktales which ring true to the venacular of southwest Georgia, where Ms. Hartsfield collected her material. There are some ghost and witch tales with new twists and some familiar "Numskull" stories. The humor related to churches is particularly helpful, because Ms. Hartsfield, perhaps unconsciously, captures the meaningful milieu of rural religion, including that of the vanishing Primitive Baptist faith. Her collection of "Courting and Marriage" and "Tall Tales" may contain less colorful material about backwoodsmen than Augustus B. Longstreet incorporated in his antebellum *Georgia Scenes*, but Hartsfield's tales ring with more truthfulness than the politically-motivated renditions of Judge Longstreet.

The more serious and specialized reader who wants to know how the volume relates to other folklore will be surprised, no doubt pleased, with her painstaking efforts to relate the material to the themes and motifs in American and international collections. She has done her homework, including obviously careful research in folklore archives, local histories, and Stith Thompson's six-volume *Motif-Index of Folk Literature*. The folktales themselves comprise only one-third of the volume, and the apparatus, unfortunately, may discourage the general reader who might otherwise find the volume most satisfying.

Mariella Glenn Hartsfield is the chariman of the humanities division at Bainbridge Junior college, and she conducts research in her backyard, as it were. She feels strongly about her community. She acknowledges that cultural isolation sometimes creates an image of "narrowness" to the outsider, but she effectively counters that perception as she searches out the sources of tradition that span time and place.

She is eager to identify the advantages of life in southwest Georgia in her introduction— “a most exquisitely beautiful land and people, a people strong in their faith and courage, deserving to be emulated by generations to come.” However, as her collection demonstrates, she pays little attention to traditions from the black community which surely has many folktales worth preserving. Let us hope that her next volume will correct this imbalance. She certainly reveals in this fine volume the empathy and accuracy needed for the task of preserving and presenting the folk heritage of all of the people of her region.

Georgia Southern College

DELMA E. PRESLEY

BOOK NOTES

Freelancing Through the Century: A Memoir by William G. Carleton was edited by Herbert J. Doherty, Jr., who also wrote the introduction. Carleton enrolled as a student at the University of Florida in 1923 and retired from its faculty in 1961. During his long career as a student, teacher, and administrator, he touched the lives of thousands of students, and he was the friend and advisor of scores of Florida political personalities, including Claude Pepper and Fuller Warren. His manner and personality, both in and out of the classroom, and his eloquence as a speaker earned him the title "Wild Bill." He took great pride in this description and regarded it as a token of affection. Carleton was extremely popular on campus, and his "American Institutions," "International Relations," and "Political Parties" courses were always oversubscribed and often had to be scheduled for the University Auditorium. He was recognized by both faculty and his students as one of the university's most influential teachers. He was also a skilled administrator, serving for many years as chairman of the freshmen social sciences program. Carleton was a productive scholar with several books and monographs and more than 200 articles published in a variety of American and foreign periodicals, encyclopedias, and anthologies. His most significant book, *The Revolution In American Foreign Policy*, was often used in college and university classrooms. He was called on frequently to speak to college audiences and before civic groups and state and national meetings. He delivered many Phi Beta Kappa addresses and lectured at the United States Naval War College. In his introduction, Professor Doherty notes: "Bill Carleton was not a modest man and he thought well of his own abilities. He was basically a friendly and outgoing man, but he could not abide being bored and was rarely seen on the faculty cocktail circuit. He loved conversation with interesting people but often dominated it." Carleton lived modestly. As Doherty describes him, Carleton was "a close man with a dollar, but he was extremely generous in giving his time, encouragement, and advice to those for whom he had respect or affection." His memoirs include not only autobiographical information, but his reflections and comments on many subjects— politics, American

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foreign policy, the University of Florida, his friendships with Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, sex, his association with Claude Pepper, his college friendship with Hoagy Carmichael, his love of jazz music, visits with Ambassador Joseph Kennedy's family in Palm Beach, and his longtime friendships with C. Vann Woodward, Manning J. Dauer, and other notables. Only a few people knew that Carleton was writing his memoirs, and it was not until after his death that anyone saw the manuscript. Unfortunately, he had not completed it when he died in Gainesville on October 30, 1982. A teaching auditorium on the University of Florida campus is named for Carleton, and the University awarded him an honorary degree in June 1976. The William G. Carleton Scholarship Fund has been established at the University of Florida Foundation, and it is this office that is distributing the published, *Freelancing Through the Century: A Memoir by William G. Carleton*. Anyone making a contribution of at least \$25.00 to the Carlton Scholarship Fund will receive a copy of the book. Contact Jim Palincsar, University of Florida Foundation, P.O. Box 14425, Gainesville, FL 32604 (904-392-1691). Cleve Miller of Jacksonville did the portrait of Carlton that is reproduced on the front cover. The book was designed by Sam Gowan, University of Florida Library.

Cypress swamps are located as far north as Delaware and Illinois, and east from Texas, along the Gulf coast, into South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. John V. Dennis, the author of *The Great Cypress Swamps*, describes in vivid detail these large and beautiful tracts and notes the diversity of plant and animal life that they nourish. He uses the term "swamp" to include both the open land and bodies of water found within the borders of the swamp proper. For instance, while lakes and marshes make up a sizable share of the Okefenokee Swamp in Georgia, there are also open areas with only a few trees growing. In the Florida Everglades, there are more open areas than wooded ones, and the Glades are sometimes referred to as "River of Grass." Two great ecosystems dominate the swamps of south Florida: the Everglades, east and south of Lake Okeechobee and covering some 4,000,000 acres, and the Big Cypress Swamp, west of the Everglades and covering about 1,500,000 acres. The Everglades National Park, established in 1947, and the Big Cypress Swamp National Preserve, created in 1974, safeguard large parts but

not all of these natural areas, including cypress and pine woods, wet and dry prairies, hardwood hammocks, and mangroves. Dennis also describes the Suwannee River which begins in the Okefenokee Swamp and flows for 265 miles through a portion of south Georgia and then diagonally across the top of Florida to the Gulf of Mexico. Seventy-one large springs and three major tributaries feed the Suwannee. Among other Florida rivers which are described are the Aucilla, Wacissa, Wakulla, Ochlocknee, Apalachicola, Choctawhatchee, Yellow, Blackwater, Escambia, and Perdido. The full-page color photographs were taken by Steve Maslowski who specializes in wildlife and conservation subjects. *The Great Cypress Swamps* was published by Louisiana State University Press, and it sells for \$29.95.

The building that the Coconut Grove Playhouse now occupies in Coconut Grove, Florida, opened as a motion picture house, January 3, 1927. Its style was Spanish rococo like most of the architecture of buildings in south Florida constructed during the Florida Boom era. It was described as one of the most luxuriously appointed movie theaters on the Florida east coast. In 1940, Kate Smith broadcast her national radio show from the theater, and during World War II the building was used for Air Force classes. In 1955, George Engle, who owned the Florida Pharmacy, one of Coconut Grove's best known businesses, purchased the property and invested \$1,000,000 in rehabilitating it for stage productions. He hired Alfred Browning Parker, the renowned architect, to supervise the work. When the theater reopened in 1956, Walter Winchell described it as "the leading showplace in Dixie." But the opening production, Samuel Beckett's *Waiting for Godot*, starring Tom Ewell and Bert Lahr, was a disaster. The first night's audience was so bored that many left before the play ended. The harsh reviews in the local papers the following day resulted in many people demanding a refund on their tickets. *Waiting for Godot* was followed by another dismal failure, Tennessee Williams's *A Streetcar Named Desire*, with Tallulah Bankhead in the lead role. Not all the productions that first season or in the following years were bad; most were well received and financially successful. Some of the world's best known entertainers performed on the Coconut Grove Playhouse stage. Local talent was also employed. The Florida writer and historian, Marjory Stoneman Douglas, had a part in the play, *The Solid Gold Cadillac*. During the 1959-1960 season, Margaret

Truman played in *The Happy Time*, and President and Mrs. Truman attended one performance. In 1977, the Playhouse became a state theater, joining the Asolo in Sarasota as one of Florida's official theaters. In December 1982, Jose Ferrer, the famous actor, director, playwright, and producer, was appointed director, and he was responsible for several successful productions. He was succeeded by Arnold Mittelman. *Broadway by the Bay*, by Carol Cohan, recounts the thirty-year history of the Coconut Grove Playhouse. It was published by Pickering Press, 2665 S. Bayshore Drive, Suite 601, Miami, FL 33133, and sells for \$11.95.

Glimpses of South Florida History is a collection of short historical articles by Stuart McIver that were published in the weekly Fort Lauderdale *News/Sun-Sentinel*, beginning with the newspaper's first issue, October 2, 1983. Mr. McIver is the author of several Florida books, and he serves as coeditor of *Update*, published by the Historical Association of Southern Florida. The articles in *Glimpses of South Florida History* describe the people and the events that have played roles in the history of this ever-changing area of the state. With each article there is a historical photograph. The foreword is by Dr. Charlton W. Tebeau, and the preface was written by John Parkyn, editor of *Sunshine* magazine. *Glimpses of South Florida History* was published by Florida Flair Books, Miami, and it sells for \$19.95.

Florida: Images of the Landscape is a collection of color photographs by James Valentine, a well-known naturalist and photographer. Each photograph is accompanied by quotations from eighteenth-, nineteenth-, and twentieth-century writers and naturalists, including William Bartram, John James Audubon, John Muir, Archie Carr, Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, Wallace Stevens, Marjory Stoneman Douglas, and Rachel Carson. The volume is divided into six geographic areas: northern Florida, Gulf coast, central Florida, Atlantic coast, southern Florida, and the Keys. There are beautiful photographs of birds, animals, marine life, flowers, limestone formations, rivers, lakes, beaches, shells, shrubs, and trees. The foreword is by Senator Lawton Chiles, and Marjorie H. Carr has written the preface. *Florida: Images of the Landscape* was published by Westcliffe Publishers, Inc. 2650 South Zuni Street, Englewood, CO 80110; it sells for \$35.00.

Boone's Florida Historical Markers & Sites, compiled by Floyd Edward Boone, contains the text of over 700 historical markers and plaques which are posted along roadways and highways, on buildings, and in parks and other public places throughout Florida. Boone has separated the markers by county and listed them alphabetically. Not only are the official state markers included, but also those erected by local historical societies, chambers of commerce, city and county governments, and other organizations. Included are 205 photographs. This is a useful historical guide book. It was published by Rainbow Books, Moore Haven, FL 33471, and it sells for \$29.95.

Will McLean is one of Florida's best known folklorists and folk singers. He has composed hundreds of songs and poems that he has sung and played at concerts, festivals, and celebrations throughout Florida. Most of his music relates to the history and environment of this state. For instance, "Hold Back the Waters," describes the tragedy of the September 1928 hurricane that swept across south Florida drowning some 4,000 people when water from Lake Okeechobee engulfed nearby communities. The Dade Massacre, Fort Desoto, Florida Green Turtles, and the Florida Seminoles are some of the subjects of his poems and songs. Included also is the poem, "Ballad of Will McLean," by Jack Turner. A few of his more than 3,500 compositions are included in the monography, *'cross the shadows of my face: Florida Folk Songs and Stories*. This booklet, edited by James Cook, may be ordered from Florida Sand, P.O. Box 187, Belleview, FL 32620. It sells for \$8.00. There is also a sixty-minute cassette recording, "Premier Works of Will McClean," which sells for \$12.00. It may also be ordered from Florida Sand.

Sarasota Origins, the publication of the Historical Society of Sarasota County, includes seven articles: "Federal Naval Raid on Sarasota Bay, March 23-27, 1864," by Jere Parker; "Pioneering at Bee Ridge," by Marian Hobson Gruters; "John Hamilton Gillespie," by Lillian G. Burns; "Thoughts from Early Settlers" and "The Bay Bridge," by Jere Parker; "Tracking the Sarasota County Courthouse," by Myrtle Lane; and "The Earliest Sarasotans," by Marion Marable Almy. The cover artist is Betty Jane Oelerich, and the logo design is by D. A. Gordon Dart. The Historical Society of Sarasota County was founded in 1960 and

was reincorporated in 1981. The Society plans to publish additional volumes of original articles relating the history of the Sarasota area. *Sarasota Origins* may be ordered from the Society, Box 1632, Sarasota, FL 34320; the cost is \$10.60 plus \$1.00 postage.

Children and Hope is the history of the Children's Home Society of Florida. It was founded by the Reverend D. W. Comstock in Jacksonville in 1902, but its greatest growth occurred under the leadership of Marcus Charles Fagg, whom most people called Daddy Fagg. Comstock helped organize the Society when someone left an infant on his doorstep, and he found that neither of the two orphanages then in Florida would accept a child under three. When Fagg arrived in Jacksonville in 1910, the state's population was only 752,000. Jacksonville was the largest city with 57,699 people. Social legislation affecting children was minimal—there was no juvenile court system, child labor law, or compulsory education law. The convict lease system was in full force, and in 1909, Florida became the last state to hang a child publicly. When Fagg took over the Society, there was no cash, and it was in debt. Mrs. Arthur Cummer of Jacksonville worked with Fagg to secure the funds needed to develop the kind of program that was desperately needed. While child care and adoption were the principal focus of the society, Fagg and his associates championed the enactment of legislation protecting the basic rights of children. They included establishment of Florida's juvenile courts, Crippled Children's Commission, the Florida Children's Commission, and the State Department of Public Welfare. Under the leadership of Fagg and his successors, the Children's Home Society has expanded its program throughout the state, including the establishment of the Miami Receiving Home. *Children and Hope*, written by Lawrence Mahoney, includes historic photographs, illustrations by Martyna Kupciunas, and a foreword by former Governor Reubin Askew. It was published by the Pickering Press, Miami, and sells for \$14.95.

The author of *The Early Birds, a History of Pan Am's Clipper Ships*, is Lawrence Mahoney. He notes that Dinner Key in Coconut Grove, Florida, began its longtime association with aviation on October 20, 1917, when construction began on one of

the country's first naval air stations. It became a major training base for aviators and their "flying machines." When World War I ended and the planes departed, private aviation under the leadership of Juan Terry Trippe began operation at Dinner Key. The abandoned air station became headquarters for Pan American. A large floating barge became its first terminal. Charles Lindbergh was Pan Am's technical advisor, and he was assigned to fly out of Miami to Panama. Other aviation pioneers who were associated with Pan American included Edwin Musick, the copilot of Pan American's inaugural flight from Key West to Havana in 1927. Pan American's first passenger flight was also from Key West to Havana, and it began January 16, 1928. Pan American was the first American airline to use radio communication, to carry emergency lifesaving equipment, to use multiple crews, to develop an airport and airways traffic control system, to purchase aircraft built to its own specifications, and to receive an airmail contract. The company remained at Dinner Key until 1945, and it sold the property to the city of Miami for more than \$1,000,000. The Dinner Key terminal became Miami's city hall. This early history of Pan American Airways, *The Early Birds*, was published by Pickering Press and sells for \$9.95.

History of Lake County, Florida, by William T. Kennedy, was first published in 1929. Mr. Kennedy, county superintendent of schools, began writing and editing this volume in the late 1920s after he had retired. Much of his material came from stories told to him by pioneer citizens of the area. He and his associate editor, Lillian D. Vickers-Smith, produced a volume of historical facts, conjectures, and folk tales. A valuable section of the volume contains biographical sketches of Lake County residents living in Umatilla, Eustis, Tavares, Mount Dora, Leesburg, Lady Lake, and Fruitland Park. Kennedy was among the pioneer settlers; he had come to Umatilla in 1895. He included in his volume the histories of some of the early communities—Conant, Kismet, and St. Frances—that had disappeared by the 1920s. *History of Lake County* had been published in a limited edition, and it was long out-of-print. A facsimile edition has now been published by the Lake County Historical Society, and it includes a new introduction by Emmett Peter, Jr., contributing editor of the *Leesburg Daily Commercial*. A list of illustrations, errata pages,

and the index have also been added. The volume may be ordered from the Society, 315 West Main Street, Tavares, FL 32778; the price is \$22.00 plus \$2.00 postage.

Sunken Treasure on Florida Reefs, by Robert "Frogfoot" Weller, is a brief history of the destruction of the 1715 Spanish Plate Fleet by a savage hurricane that swept across the Bahama Channel and lower Florida. There were twelve vessels in the flotilla, including a French ship that was accompanying the fleet back to Europe. The French vessel was the only one that survived. The other ships were torn apart on the jagged coral reefs along the Florida east coast between Fort Pierce and Sebastian Inlet. Over 700 lives were lost, and an estimated 14,000,000 pesos in gold and silver were scattered over the beaches and reefs. There was some salvage by the Spanish, but most of the treasure remained buried in the mud and sand until very recently. Now six of the twelve ships have been located and tentatively identified. They represent the major units of the fleet and were the major treasure ships. Weller's monograph describes each individual ship, notes where it is now located, describes the salvage efforts and details what has been recovered. *Sunken Treasure on Florida Reefs* was published by Cross Anchors Salvage, 1818 Seventeenth Avenue North, Lake Worth, FL. 33460, and it sells for \$10.00.

The Black Experience: A Guide to Afro-American Resources in the Florida State Archives documents the lives, culture, and experience of black Floridians from the antebellum period to the present. Included in the manuscript collections of the State Archives are slave books, bills of sale for slaves, church membership rosters, baptisms and marriage records, the records of the Black Teachers Association, and the papers of Judge Joseph Lee, an eminent black political leader. In the state's photographic collection are many images showing blacks in a variety of settings, prominent blacks who served in state and local government, and blacks working in various agricultural industries. The Federal Emergency Relief Administration's Photo Album which contains many photographs depicting black life in Florida in the 1930s is available. The State Library's Florida Collection contains a biography file with newspaper clippings and articles relating to Florida blacks and a card file on black legislators. There

are newspapers, slave schedules, the Gavin Papers (a black family in Wakulla County), and a microfilm copy of the Mary McLeod Bethune Papers. The Governor's Administrative Correspondence represents another rich source of documentation. Files relating to slaves, slavery, freedmen, the civil rights movement, segregation and desegregation, Black Conservation Corps Camps of the 1930s, lynchings, busing, black education, Florida A&M University, affirmative action, riots, and the Black Caucus are among the many black history subjects for which documentation is available. *The Black Experience* was published by the Florida Department of State, Division of Library and Information Services, Bureau of Archives and Records Management, Tallahassee.

The Florida Keys cover the area from Biscayne Bay to the Dry Tortugas, a distance of some 180 miles. The Tortugas stretches seventy watery miles west from Key West. The distance along the keys accessible by automobile is approximately 106 miles—along the highway originally built in the 1930s to replace Henry Flagler's Florida East Coast Extension railroad line. The *Florida Keys, From Key Largo to Key West*, by Joy Williams, is a history and guide to the area. It includes historical data and folklore, and information on hotels and motels, bars and restaurants, shopping, churches, entertainment, museums, and other places to visit. The illustrations are by Stan Skardinski. Published by Random House, New York, *The Florida Keys* sells for \$9.95.

Advice After Appomattox: Letters to Andrew Johnson, 1865-1866, is edited by Brooks D. Simpson, LeRoy P. Graf, and John Muldowny. When the Civil War ended in the spring of 1865, the principal issues facing the nation were the restoration of the rebellious states to the Union and the status of the blacks now freed from bondage. Although the problems were obvious, the solutions were not. There was a lack of reliable information about conditions in the South. The advice that flooded the White House was conflicting, and much of it was self-serving. In order to form a true picture of life in the South after Appomattox, President Andrew Johnson drew on the letters and reports of several emissaries whose views he trusted. These included Chief Justice of the Supreme Court Salmon P. Chase,

Carl Schurz, Benjamin C. Truman, Harvey M. Watterson, and Ulysses S. Grant. Two of Chase's letters were written from Florida. In one from Fernandina, May 21, 1865, he describes a public meeting where "a vote was taken on the question whether the colored citizens should participate in the election of Mayor &c & it was decided in the affirmative. An election for Mayor, Councilmen & other officers was held accordingly— the blacks & whites voting." Two days earlier Chase had been in Jacksonville and met with former Senator David Levy Yulee who emphasized the need for the white population to retain political power. According to Chase, Yulee and his associates "especially object to the blacks voting." On May 23, Chase was in Key West where he again reported by letter to the White House. He described Key West as having "not more than 3,500 inhabitants of all colors and the whole county of Monroe . . . not more than 1,500 more. A number of the citizens have always remained loyal; but a larger number, have been either actively or in every thing but active on the side of rebellion." *Advice After Appomattox* was published by the University of Tennessee Press, Knoxville, as Special Volume No. 1 of the *Papers of Andrew Johnson*; the price is \$29.95 for cloth and \$14.95 for paper.

During the hectic Florida Boom days of the 1920s George Merrick dreamed of turning his family truck garden in Coral Gables, then the far outskirts of Miami, into a "city beautiful, the place where castles in Spain come true." The centerpiece for this "master suburb" was to be the Biltmore Hotel which was planned in the great European tradition. Its architecture was Spanish or "Modified Mediterranean," as it was then called. The highlight would be a Giralda Tower patterned after the famous tower in Seville, Spain. A country club was to adjoin the hotel, and an initiation fee was set at \$1,500, with membership limited to 300. William Jennings Bryan was present at the groundbreaking ceremonies. Ever since its opening, January 15, 1926, the Biltmore has played an active role in the social life of Greater Miami. On the first evening there was a grand banquet and a dance. Paul Whiteman and two other orchestras played, lanterns flickered, and champagne corks popped, although Prohibition was ostensibly in effect at the time. Bobby Jones and other celebrities played on the world famous golf courses. During its first season the hotel listed among its famous guests Otto Kahn, Ber-

nard Baruch, Albert Lasker, Mary Garden, the entire cast of the Chicago Opera Company, Adolph Zukor, Gene Tunney, Gene Sarazen, and New York Mayor James J. Walker. Later the Duke and Duchess of Windsor were guests. During World War II the Miami Biltmore was converted into a military hospital. An interesting account of the hotel, which is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places, has been written by Helen Muir, the author of *Miami USA*. She has titled her book *The Biltmore, Beacon for Miami*. The Biltmore has been restored and refurbished and it reopened as a luxury hotel in 1986. Pickering Press is the publisher of the paperback, *The Biltmore*, and it sells for \$9.95.