

1989

Book Reviews

Florida Historical Society
membership@myfloridahistory.org

 Part of the [American Studies Commons](#), and the [United States History Commons](#)

Find similar works at: <https://stars.library.ucf.edu/fhq>

University of Central Florida Libraries <http://library.ucf.edu>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by STARS. It has been accepted for inclusion in Florida Historical Quarterly by an authorized editor of STARS. For more information, please contact STARS@ucf.edu.

Recommended Citation

Society, Florida Historical (1989) "Book Reviews," *Florida Historical Quarterly*. Vol. 68 : No. 1 , Article 7.
Available at: <https://stars.library.ucf.edu/fhq/vol68/iss1/7>

BOOK REVIEWS

Invasion of Privacy: The Cross Creek Trial of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings.
By Patricia Nassif Acton. (Gainesville: University of Florida Press, 1988. 175 pp. Illustrations, notes, sources and acknowledgments, index. \$18.00 cloth; \$10.00 paper.)

The life of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings was one of peaks and valleys, successes and disappointments. The idyllic years of her childhood and close relationship with her father, Arthur F. Kinnan, ended in his death in 1913, but her romantic courtship with Charles Rawlings came to a peak with their marriage in 1919. That relationship was a steady downstream affair, softened by her early successes as a feature and syndicated newspaper writer. She and Charles agreed that a change of scene might improve their relationship and further their careers, so they came to Florida and bought the property at Cross Creek in 1928. From that point onward, Charles Rawlings gradually slipped from the scene and dropped from Marjorie's life with their divorce in 1933.

The move to Florida started Marjorie on an upward trend, psychologically and financially. In 1930, she sold her first story to *Scribner's* magazine, and with the sale of her second story to the same magazine she became a protégée of Maxwell Perkins, an editor for *Scribner's*. He encouraged her to pursue writing of her Florida experiences and background, which was to lead her to her highest peak. She deserted the valleys of her laborious Gothic novel, never completed, and turned to the writing of her surroundings and relationships at Cross Creek.

Rapid successes followed. In 1933, *South Moon Under*, an immediate best-seller, was published by *Scribner's*. *Golden Apples* was followed by *The Yearling*, which received the Pulitzer Prize for fiction and the fabulous sum— for that day— of \$30,000 for movie rights. In 1941, in a continuation of one of the true “peaks” of her life, she married Norton Baskin.

In 1942 came *Cross Creek*, another best-seller, but a work that was to lead to personal distress and a valley from which she would never wholly escape. In the book, she described the area and its people with the same precision that characterized all her writing, and most of her characters were pleased at their inclusion, al-

though the portrayal was not always flattering. One of those displeased was her close neighbor and friend, Zelma Cason, described in the book by Marjorie as “an ageless spinster resembling an angry and efficient canary. . . . My profane friend, Zelma, the census taker.” Because of these and other passages deemed objectionable by her, Zelma Cason brought suit against Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Baskin and her husband, Norton Baskin, in Circuit Court of Alachua County, Florida, for \$100,000, claiming invasion of privacy, a relatively novel concept in the law of Florida at that time.

Circuit Judge John A. H. Murphree sustained demurrers to each of the four counts of the complaint, giving Marjorie a temporary victory and boost in morale. But the victory was short-lived. Zelma, the census taker, and her persistent counsel, J. V. Walton and his daughter, Kate L. Walton, took the ruling to the Supreme Court of Florida, and in January 1945, the court sent the matter back for trial, stating that a prima facie case had been made for invasion of privacy, “the right to be let alone.”

The matter then came on for a jury trial in Alachua County, and the publicity attendant upon the dispute assured a filled courtroom of interested and largely partial (to Rawlings) spectators. The trial was vigorously conducted by both litigants and their counsel, and the verdict for the defendants gave Marjorie, Norton, and their supporters a brief feeling of elation.

The matter was not over, however. Zelma and her stubborn and efficient counsel refused to quit, and back to the Florida Supreme Court went the litigation. In June 1947, the Supreme Court, through Associate Justice C. E. Chillingworth, reversed the lower court again and sent the matter back to the circuit court, with directions that plaintiff recover only nominal damages and all costs. In the opinion, Justice Chillingworth described the suit as “warfare by pleading” prior to the jury trial. The eventual cost to Marjorie was \$1 nominal damages, plus court costs and attorneys’ fees for Zelma Cason. There was also incalculable damage to Marjorie’s health and personal feelings.

The tribulations of the trial had its effect upon Mrs. Rawlings. In 1943, the same year the lawsuit was instituted, Marjorie had begun work on *The Sojourner*, a novel with a non-Florida background. It would be ten years before the book was published, with the Cason trial and no really productive work intervening. To say that the reception by the public of *The Sojourner* was “lukewarm”

would perhaps be too generous to the author. The Rawlings peaks of production and satisfaction had declined through the years of litigation, with the concurrent damage to her health. In 1952, she suffered a heart attack at Crescent Beach, and on December 14, 1953, she died in St. Augustine of a cerebral hemorrhage.

Patricia Nassif Acton, clinical professor at the University of Iowa College of Law, is eminently qualified to write this history of the famous trial. Acton interviewed many eyewitnesses and examined the original trial transcripts of proceedings, contemporary newspaper accounts, and the correspondence of the central figures. The book is charmingly illustrated by J. T. Glisson, native of Cross Creek and, as a youngster, a friend of Mrs. Rawlings. Her writings mention "Jake," but unlike Zelma, he did not complain about her characterization of him.

Mrs. Acton, like this reviewer, had the difficult task of describing, yet condensing, the background of the life and works of Rawlings for those who knew little of either, and detailing enough of the legal actions to be realistic and accurate without detracting from the action of the principal subject matter. She has performed her task well. The book is readable, informative, and accurate. The section of "Notes," chapter by chapter, provides source material and is well presented. While the citation of the second appeal to the Florida Supreme Court is given (30 So.2d 635), this reviewer did not find the citation for the first appeal (20 So.2d 243) which is of interest and importance.

Production of the movies "Cross Creek" and "Gal Young-un" in recent years has brought about a well-deserved resurgence of interest in the writings of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings. *Invasion of Privacy* is a substantial and valuable addition to the renewed and sustained attention to her work. There is also a recently published biography, *Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings: Sojourner at Cross Creek*, by Elizabeth Silverthorne (reviewed in the *Florida Historical Quarterly*, January 1989, 353-54). The president of the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Society is Philip S. May, Jr., whose father served as chief counsel for Mrs. Rawlings and for Norton Baskin in the Zelma Cason law suit.

Florida Museum of Natural History

WILLIAM M. GOZA

Full Steam Ahead! The Story of Peter Demens, Founder of St. Petersburg, Florida. By Albert Parry. (St. Petersburg: Great Outdoors Publishing Company, 1987. xii, 250 pp. Introduction, acknowledgments, illustrations, notes, index. \$14.95.)

Like many Florida cities, St. Petersburg owes its existence to the coming of the railroad. How those crucial tracks came to be laid to a hamlet with fewer than fifty persons in 1888 is the fascinating backdrop of this book.

Peter Demens was not your typical tycoon in the era of American railroad expansion. In fact, he was a Russian aristocrat who feared reprisals as a dissident from the czarist regime and sailed to this country to make a new start. Albert Parry, former head of Russian studies at Colgate University, has translated Demens's extensive writings in Russian and researched Demens's Papers, as well as other sources. Thus, one learns much about the man whose name was originally Pyotr Alekseyevich Dementyev. But the author's biographical narrative of Demens and the story of the building of the railroad occupies only about fifty pages of this volume. Most of the remaining space is devoted to Demens's magazine articles and excerpts from a book he wrote in 1895. There is much drama, though, in the Russian's against-odds adventures in beginning anew in wilderness Florida in 1881. Parry provides an adequate account, and a chapter from Demens's book adds intriguing detail.

Settling at Longwood with his wife and four children, Demens worked as a day-laborer, clearing land for an orange grove and acquiring an interest in a sawmill. Soon he bought out his partners and branched out as a builder. Within several years, the one-time Imperial Guards officer had taken over the Orange Belt Railway, completing the line from the St. Johns River to Lake Apopka. But the ambitious Demens set his sights 150 miles southward to the Pinellas peninsula and the possibility of a port railhead on the Gulf of Mexico. His exact terminus in doubt, Demens gained a propitious offer from land baron Hamilton Disston whose Disston City had proximity to Mullet Key, a potential port-site. But Disston refused to sweeten his original deal of 60,000 acres with more land, and Demens looked for an alternative. John Constantine Williams, son of Detroit's first mayor, counter-offered some Old Tampa Bay frontage at sparsely populated Paul's Landing.

It was a tossup where the railroad would go. Demens began laying track in 1887, fighting obstacles all the way and missing one deadline that cost him state land grants. Antiquated equipment, woefully inadequate financing most of the way, yellow fever, and rebellious workmen tested the mettle of the strong-willed immigrant. Finally, in June 1888, the first wood-burning locomotive chugged into Williams's tract—the center of today's St. Petersburg. It was named for the capital of Demens's homeland, while the first hotel was named the Detroit for Williams's home city.

A city did emerge, but Parry tells of Demens's disillusioned sale of the bankrupt railroad in 1889 and his subsequent moves to North Carolina and to California, where he died in 1919. Demens never returned to Florida. Some might question Parry's assertion that Demens was the "principal founder" of St. Petersburg since he remained on the scene so briefly. But no one can doubt that the railroad made possible the future Sunshine City as it is today.

Tampa, Florida

LELAND M. HAWES, JR.

Florida's Past: Volume 2, People and Events that Shaped the State. By Gene M. Burnett. (Sarasota, FL: Pineapple Press, Inc., 1988. x, 259 pp. Acknowledgments, introduction, photographs, bibliography, index. \$16.95.)

Since 1973 Gene M. Burnett, Tampa journalist and historian, has been writing a monthly historical article called "Florida's Past" for *Florida Trend* magazine. Now Pineapple Press, of Sarasota, has published its second volume of his articles in a book entitled, appropriately, *Florida's Past: Volume 2*.

As a writer for a statewide business magazine, Burnett is, necessarily, a "popularizer," reaching out for readers whose approach to history is non-academic and non-professional. That he does it well is attested to by his sixteen years with *Trend* and now by the publication, within just two years of the first volume, of these lively, interesting articles.

Like the previous volume, this book contains sixty-three stories organized in five sections: Achievers and Pioneers, Villains and Characters, Heroes and Heroines, War and Peace,

and Calamities and Social Turbulence. Essentially a mosaic of events and characters, the book does a first-rate job of presenting the variety and complexity of the state's past. In territory, *Florida's Past* ranges from Pensacola to Key West, and in time from Ponce de León's arrival in Florida in 1513 to the contemporary death throes of the boondoggling Cross-Florida Barge Canal.

Burnett writes of such famed Florida "Titans" as Broward, Mizner, Ringling, and Edison, but he is at his best in uncovering and bringing to life the more obscure figures and events. He presents to us Miss Abbie M. Brooks who wrote the delightful nineteenth-century Florida travel guide, *Petals Plucked from Sunny Climes*, under the pseudonym "Sylvia Sunshine." He tells us, too, of the merchandising genius of Doc Webb who created "The World's Most Unusual Drugstore" in downtown St. Petersburg. Burnett writes of sensational activities like murder, espionage, rumrunning, and illegal gambling, but he does not neglect such significant subjects as anti-Semitism on Miami Beach, the demagoguery that deposited Sidney Catts in the governor's mansion, the "fixed" presidential election of 1876, and the New Deal rescue of impoverished Key West.

Florida's Past, like its predecessor, makes an excellent night-table book; reading time for most of these essays runs about five minutes apiece.

Lighthouse Point, Florida

STUART B. MCIVER

The Log of Christopher Columbus. Translated by Robert H. Fuson. (Camden, ME: International Marine Publishing Company, 1987. xviii, 252 pp. Acknowledgments, foreword by Luis Marden, illustrations, maps, notes, appendixes, bibliography, index. \$29.95.)

The Diario of Christopher Columbus's First Voyage to America, 1492-1493. Abstracted by Fray Bartolomé de las Casas. Transcribed and translated by Oliver Dunn and James E. Kelley, Jr. (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1988. xi, 489 pp. Acknowledgments, editor's introduction, illustrations, notes, bibliography, concordance, index. \$57.50.)

All studies of Christopher Columbus's first voyage to America are based on Columbus's daily account of the voyage. This, the only record of the event, has been described as "the most accurate and complete ship's log ever produced up to its time" (p. 2.). Columbus presented the original log to Queen Isabella, who had a copy made for the Admiral, but both documents have been missing since at least 1554. What has survived is a literary hybrid—part paraphrase, part transcription—of a copy made by Bartolomé de las Casas. Thus, the only surviving record of the voyage is a third-hand manuscript written in sixteenth-century Spanish.

From the beginning, the ambiguities, errors, and omissions in that manuscript have been compounded in translation. In 1981, the Society for the History of Discoveries concluded that all published translations differed from Casas's transcription, and that the discrepancies were due both to insufficient understanding of sixteenth-century Spanish and to bias. In passages that permitted more than one interpretation, translators tended to choose the one that best matched their own conceptions of the voyage. The two translations reviewed here have largely succeeded in avoiding such biases.

The first, by Robert H. Fuson, offers much more than a "modernized" translation. In a fifty-page prologue and a forty-page epilogue, Fuson takes a broad-brush portrait of Columbus and adds detail, nuance, and life. Much of this detail is available only in reports and unpublished manuscripts—the product of recent investigations stimulated by the approaching Columbus Quincentenary. In this regard, Fuson's book is of enormous

value, offering accounts of Columbus the man, his voyage, and the debates concerning the location of his first landfall that are not readily available elsewhere. Fuson's modernized translation captures the essence of the Casas transcription. The text is easy to read and is profusely illustrated.

There are, however, two serious defects. First, Fuson fails to correct Casas's opinion that Columbus "decided to reckon fewer leagues than [he] actually made" (p. 62) as a means of mollifying his crew. While Fuson does not agree that Columbus kept a "secret" journal (p. 34), his failure to modernize Casas's text tends to perpetuate this myth. James Kelley has demonstrated that the two distances reflect a difference in the measurement units used by Columbus and his crew (i.e., nautical versus statute miles).

The second defect is the repeated references to the Samana track, one of twenty proposed reconstructions of Columbus passage through the Indies. It is understandable for Fuson to promote the track he currently supports, but these notes are unnecessary distractions. Fuson invites us to plot the track ourselves. What is the result of such a plot? The first half does fit Columbus's descriptions, but following his arrival at Long Island the Samana track falls apart. The *Diario* states that the coast of Fernandina (Long Island) extended for more than twenty-eight leagues (eighty-four nautical miles) and that Columbus "saw" twenty leagues (sixty nautical miles) of it. These distances take Columbus far off track. Therefore, Fuson concludes that the *Diario* should read miles instead of leagues (p. 86). He does this despite his rejection of the Watling track on the basis of a similar change of units (p. 203). The following two days are even more unjustifiable. During a twenty-four-hour period, with a favorable wind, Columbus sailed only seventeen miles; yet the next morning (six hours), with the same winds, the track required that he sail thirty-six miles! Columbus then described the coast of Isabella as extending for twelve leagues (Fuson changes leagues to miles without explanation, p. 87). Using the same canons of evidence, Fuson's translation proves the Samana track is wrong. Gymnastics to prove otherwise detract from an acceptable translation.

The second volume is a bilingual, meticulously annotated transcription and translation prepared by Oliver Dunn and James E. Kelley, Jr., that elicits far less controversy. Dunn and

Kelley set out to prepare an exact transcription of Casas's handwritten folios. To accomplish this they developed computer programs to facilitate wordprocessing, proofreading, and the preparation of an exhaustive concordance. They have succeeded in preparing the first complete and legible replica of Casas's transcription that includes all of the unusual spellings, abbreviations, and capitalizations, as well as inserted, omitted, and canceled text. Those idiosyncracies of the Casas folios are discussed in a twelve-page introduction. The transcribers also provide interpretations and discussions of disputed passages in footnotes throughout the English translation. Their book is destined to become the definitive version for English-speaking Columbus scholars.

Florida Museum of Natural History

WILLIAM F. KEEGAN

Letters of Delegates to Congress, 1774-1789: Volume 15, April 1-August 31, 1780. Edited by Paul H. Smith, Gerard W. Gawalt, and Ronald M. Gephart. (Washington: Library of Congress, 1988. xxix, 678 pp. Editorial method and apparatus, acknowledgments, chronology of Congress, list of delegates to Congress, illustrations, index. \$37.00.)

Letters of Delegates to Congress, 1774-1789, deserves to be read and used not just by scholars but by college and school teachers and students, practitioners of public history, and anyone interested in the American Revolution. The wide range of historical issues dealt with in the letters, the promptness with which volumes are appearing in print, and the utility of the editorial notes and other aids all serve a large and varied—rather than narrow and specialized—set of readers' needs.

The volumes on the 1770s depicted the ideological creativity of the Revolution and Congress's resourcefulness as an institution. Now into the 1780s in volumes 14 and 15 here reviewed, the delegates witness the great drama of the British invasion of the South. Using its power to regain the initiative in the war, Britain, during the spring and summer of 1780, set in motion events that would culminate more than a year later at Yorktown.

The delegates' understanding of the peril and opportunity presented by that throw of the dice brings immediacy and ten-

sion to modern understanding of that phase of the Revolution. "The apprehension of the loss of South Carolina, the real distress of the Army, and the insistence of the enemy have already had a considerable effect on the Legislature as well as the Whiggs of this state," James Duane wrote from Philadelphia on May 6, 1780. "I am firmly persuaded that they are making great exertions, that meat may be found here to feed the Army for five or six weeks [but] am not so easy in my mind on the articles of bread and pay. . . . To a republican form of government a jealousy in conferring extensive authority is natural and equally natural is it for men to relax and become supine after long and violent exertions." Duane understood that the psychic resourcefulness of the patriots was an immense short-term asset which had to be amassed and expended with excruciating care. "Men and courage will not be found wanting when the danger or prospect of deliverance approach in fuller view. . . . I can examine the gloomy side of the prospect, tho' not without pain and solicitude yet without being deserted by the pleasing hope of combatting all our difficulties and rising superior to the assaults of our implacable enemies!"

William Curchill Houston's tantilizing news from Spain about the embarkation of the French fleet for American waters, a Congressional committee's appraisal of the geo-political requirements for an assault on New York City in August, news of the Gordon riots in London, and John Armstrong's anguished report of the British victory at Camden all typify the knife-edge uncertainty of hope and despair on which the delegates operated during these fateful four months.

*University of North Carolina
at Greensboro*

ROBERT M. CALHOON

The Canary Islanders of Louisiana. By Gilbert C. Din. (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1988. xiii, 256 pp. Preface, illustrations, appendix, bibliography, index. \$32.50.)

Military necessity brought the Canary Islanders to Louisiana during the American Revolution. Recruited at the behest of the influential Gálvez clan for service in the Louisiana Fixed Regiment, around 480 isleño soldiers and 1,100 dependents had

arrived in New Orleans by mid-1779. Delayed by the war, the last contingent reached Louisiana from Cuba in 1783, bringing the total influx of Canarians to almost 2,000. Din's book traces the history of these immigrants and their descendants to modern times.

Governor Bernardo de Gálvez quickly realized the impracticality of retaining so many married troops in regular service. Accordingly, he settled those with families in places where as militia they might become self-supporting guardians of the approaches to New Orleans. About 360 families were dispatched to four townsites personally selected by the governor: Valenzuela, Galveztown, Barataria, and San Bernardo.

Barataria, isolated amidst coastal wetlands southwest of New Orleans, was abandoned within five years, and Galveztown, virtually encircled by swamps lying below the juncture of the Amite and Iberville rivers, endured until 1803 only through official obduracy and prolonged subsidies. Some descendants of the Valenzuelans yet reside in the back country of upper Bayou Lafourche, but they retain little of their cultural heritage. Only in St. Bernard Parish, the one settlement to prosper moderately from the outset, does *isleño* ethnic identity retain vitality.

Din devotes 40 percent of the text to the Spanish colonial period, the era in which archival sources on recruitment, settlement, and the vicissitudes the *isleños* experienced in adjusting to a harsh, raw, and unfamiliar environment abound. The remainder of the study, organized in conformity with the conventional historic phases of Louisiana's statehood, portrays the *isleños* as hardy but mostly illiterate clusters of small farmers, hunters and fishermen isolated from and largely ignored by the cultural mainstream. Here the sparsity of sources limits the author mostly to relating the achievements of individual *isleños* who succeeded as business, political, and professional leaders, or those who saw wartime military service.

Din succeeds in giving a well-written and carefully researched account of an ethnic group heretofore largely ignored by historians. The colonial chapters are of greater interest to students of Florida history because of their relevance to Spanish-British conflict in West Florida during the American Revolution. Additionally, Din covers the voluntary relocation of many former Galveztown residents in the "Spanishtown" district of Baton Rouge following the Louisiana Purchase. He also traces the tem-

porary relocation of a small group of isleño families from Havana to Pensacola in the 1780s. Of particular interest to genealogists, the appendix contains passenger lists of all isleños who embarked from either Tenerife or Havana for New Orleans, 1778-1783.

McNeese State University

THOMAS D. WATSON

The Legacy of Andrew Jackson: Essays on Democracy, Indian Removal, and Slavery. By Robert V. Remini. (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1988. xii, 117 pp. Acknowledgments, preface, notes, index. \$20.00.)

This slim volume is based upon Remini's Walter Lynwood Fleming lectures delivered at Louisiana State University in 1984. Remini is by all odds the leading Andrew Jackson scholar in the United States today. His three-volume biography of Jackson, published between 1977 and 1984, stands as the definitive work. Given this impressive study and other books he has authored on Jackson and his times, it would be surprising if there were any surprises in this one. Three essays comprise the book, centering on areas of controversial importance in Jackson's career: democracy, Indian removal, and slavery.

It is Remini's thesis that Jackson played a larger positive role in the advancement of political democracy than he is generally given credit for by historians. He argues that repeatedly Jackson insisted, "The people are sovereign; their will is absolute." This was, he points out, a new concept in American politics that was at variance with the founding fathers' ideas of the checks on majority rule which were central to the earlier ideology of "republicanism."

More than fifty years ago Thomas Perkins Abernethy told us that Jackson's commitment to democracy was "good talk with which to win the favor of the people and thereby accomplish ulterior objectives." Admittedly some Remini interpretations are controversial, but he does not find "ulterior objectives" in Jackson's "talk" and makes a persuasive case that the experienced, mature Jackson truly believed in the people and the right of the majority of them to rule. This reviewer leans to the same understanding, and remembers reading a letter Jackson wrote

as early as the summer of 1822 defending universal manhood suffrage as right and proper.

Remini reiterates an earlier expressed view that Jackson did not seek destruction of the Indians. He did not tolerate the tribes as barriers to white expansion (any more than he would British or Spaniards as such barriers), but he understood the Indians' attachment to their cultures and societies. As a realist, he reckoned they had one of two choices— to submit to the white man's ways and be absorbed into his culture, or to move out of the way of his expansion to remote regions where they might preserve the old ways unmolested. Remini maintains that Jackson's ideas were well-meaning if naive and that those who implemented his policies should bear blame for their corrupt perversion and unspeakable cruelty.

The last essay, which is on slavery, is the shortest. Jackson's views were not much different from those of most slaveholders. Slavery was an accepted fact of life defined in finality by the Constitution. His viewpoint was not at odds with his views about majority rule; democracy was for white men. That blacks should be a part of the body politic was unthinkable. Slavery was a basic right, as American as "capitalism, nationalism, or democracy." Nonetheless, the divisive potential of slavery was well understood by Jackson who sought to defuse the issue by excluding it from public debate. He was blind to slavery as a moral issue and convinced himself that it was raised by political "malcontents," such as John C. Calhoun and John Quincy Adams, who were determined to disrupt the Union or to discredit democracy. In either case, he feared the result would be the restoration of minority rule in the form of an aristocracy of money.

In order to understand and agree with Remini's interpretations, one must place them strictly in the context of the early nineteenth-century United States, with all the values, attitudes, and prejudices that ruled American society at the time. To judge Jackson and the Jacksonians by other standards, including those of today, is not helpful and stands in the way of a valid comprehension of the men and events of the era. Even historians sometimes judge the past by the standards of their own time and place. Remini has not fallen into that error.

University of Florida

HERBERT J. DOHERTY, JR.

The Limits of Sisterhood: The Beecher Sisters on Women's Rights and Woman's Sphere. By Jeanne Boydston, Mary Kelley, and Anne Margolis. (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1988. xxiv, 369 pp. Acknowledgments, chronology, introduction, illustrations, notes, index. \$32.00 cloth; \$12.95 paper.)

In *The Limits of Sisterhood*, three individual authors have melded their separate interests in the three remarkable Beecher sisters into a single volume. The text takes the form of an extended conversation among them about nineteenth-century America and the roles played by white middle-class women. Jeanne Boydston, a historian at Rutgers University, Mary Kelley, a historian at Dartmouth College, and Anne Margolis, who has taught English and American studies at Williams College, each has the main responsibility for each of the sisters—Boydston for Catherine Esther Beecher, Kelley for Harriet Beecher Stowe, and Margolis for Isabella Beecher Hooker. The authors divide the book into an introduction and four parts: “Shaping Experience,” “The Power of Womanhood,” “The Politics of Sisterhood,” and “Conversations Among Ourselves.” Each of the first three parts has an analysis of each sister at different stages of her life with selections from her private and public papers. The final part has excerpts from letters the sisters wrote to one another to maintain their ties and to keep each informed of their views and daily lives. These letters are rich in detail and full of information. While they show great and constant care for one another, they also make clear that sisterhood did not come easily to the Beecher women.

Together the lives of the Beecher sisters, from Catherine's birth in 1800 to Isabella's death in 1907, spanned the entire nineteenth century and chronicled the astonishing range of activities that engaged the energies of white, middle-class women in nineteenth-century America. During a time when people were almost continuously at odds over the proper role of women, the Beecher sisters shared a commitment to “women's power.” Each in her own way—Catherine as an educator and writer of advice literature, Harriet as an author of novels, tales, and sketches, and Isabella as a women's rights activist—devoted much of her adult life to elevating women's status and expanding women's influence. Furthermore, each of the sisters

achieved a position from which to make her views heard, and each contributed to the ideas of womanhood that have been carried into the twentieth century.

The Beecher sisters' involvement in the reform movements cannot be ascribed solely to the legacy from their father Lyman Beecher. They were also actors in a profound shift in gender relations then taking place involving domesticity and natural rights theory which were based on logically opposed premises about the nature of women. Yet the two approaches to women's struggle for self-determination were seldom kept entirely separate.

The authors ably succeed in showing how each of the Beecher sisters illustrated this mingling of apparent contradictory premises. Catherine, an early advocate of domesticity, opposed woman suffrage in part because she believed all women were not equally qualified to vote. While Harriet wanted women to have legal and political rights, she insisted that women were individuals with the same rights and responsibilities as men. Isabella argued for women's social and political equality with the conviction that women alone had the higher morality through which American society would be reformed. This well-researched and well-written book makes a major contribution to the American women's movement.

University of Notre Dame

VINCENT P. DESANTIS

Masters and Slaves in the House of the Lord: Race and Religion in the American South, 1740-1870. Edited by John B. Boles. (Lexington: The University Press of Kentucky, 1988. 257 pp. Introduction, notes, contributors, index. \$25.00.)

This book of eight essays focuses primarily upon evangelical denominations in the Deep South, with the Anglican and Presbyterian churches receiving less attention than the Catholic church. The editor and the other essayists have a very good grasp of the subject.

The editor, John B. Boles, introduces the work in an overview of the subject. Then Alan Gallay gives a revisionist interpretation of the Great Awakening in arguing that as a result of George Whitefield's relationship with the Bryans of South

Carolina, a network of evangelicals was established in the South which lasted beyond the mid-eighteenth century. It subsequently gained prominence in nineteenth-century religious life, winning Southerners also to their paternalistic ideology.

Larry M. James's essay on biracial fellowship in antebellum Baptist churches in Mississippi and Louisiana presents a nearly idyllic picture of Christian brotherhood in biracial churches. Randy Spark's essay on religion in Amite County, Mississippi, presents a less sanguine picture of fellowship in biracial churches where African-Americans were forced to worship after 1830, in the wake of the proscription on separate all-black worshiping. Fellowship may not have been any more cordial in Florida biracial churches, according to Robert Hall who cautions in his essay that the privileges blacks enjoyed were tempered by the slave status of blacks, the segregated pews which they occupied, and their disfranchisement in church elections.

Blake Touchstone combines the three approaches normally used to study the religion of slaves in his analysis of the central role which planters played in providing religious instruction for their slaves, and he concludes that religious instruction was provided primarily for selfish reasons that had little to do with the planters' desire to save slaves' souls. In the only essay devoted solely to Catholicism, Randy Miller states that Catholic priests, some of whom were poorly educated, lost the confidence of slaves because they divulged confessions to planters, and a syncretic process of Afro-Catholicism failed to develop in the Old South. In spite of these shortcomings, all races of Catholics were distinguished from other Southerners because they shared a common Catholic culture.

Clarence L. Mohr's essay points out that Georgia reformers who led the amelioration movement in their state during the Civil War used guilt and doomsday rhetoric as their major weapons, but in the waning months of the war the debate over Jefferson Davis's plan to emancipate and arm slaves pushed amelioration endeavors to the back burner. In the last essay in the volume, Katherine L. Dvorak provides a causal analysis of the proliferation of racially separated churches after the Civil War. Afro-Americans were not driven from biracial churches, and whites, who initially opposed the exodus of blacks from their churches, later facilitated efforts to unite black Southerners with northern black churches, mainly to prevent northern

Protestants from attracting African-Americans into their churches.

While the individual essays are generally solid, the volume lacks cohesion, with the geographical scope of the presentations running the gamut from county, state, bi-state, to regional, and their subject matter is almost as diverse. Reading the work, one senses that it is a collection of essays rather than a monograph. The format is similar to its precursor, *Religion in the South*, Charles R. Wilson (ed.), in which John Boles has an essay.

University of Miami

WHITTINGTON B. JOHNSON

Embattled Courage: The Experience of Combat in the American Civil War. By Gerald F. Linderman. (New York: Free Press, 1987. x, 357 pp. Acknowledgments, introduction, dramatis personae, notes, bibliography, index. \$22.50.)

This book discusses the Civil War in such a fresh insightful way that it is a necessity for anyone seeking to understand that conflict. University of Michigan historian Gerald F. Linderman recounts what combat was like for the Civil War soldier and, in the process, gives the reader insight into the nature and impact of war itself.

In the early years of the war, according to Linderman, "Manliness, godliness, duty, honor, and knightliness" constituted the soldier's value system (p. 16). At the core of it all, however, was courage, "the cement of armies" (p. 34). A soldier's participation in battle was a demonstration of what he was made of: any fear, any hesitation was an indication that he was a coward.

So, in the early years of the war, courage goaded the soldier into battle. No matter the quality of those who commanded him, no matter if his unit won or lost the battle, no matter how awful the fighting might be, if he was courageous, God would look out for him and all would be well.

The reality of the war quickly overwhelmed these expectations. Such factors as disease, the boredom and morally sapping quality of camp life, the suddenness and horror of death, the agony of the wounded, and the awful hospital, all put the soldier's preconceived notions to rout. The Civil War soldier came to realize that he could not fight the war he thought he

could and should fight. Courage was no protector from measles, or the sniper, or the long months in a siege line. There was no such thing as a courageous or cowardly death; there was just death. Now soldiers talked of "futile courage" (p. 162) and were less critical of alleged cowardice.

Survival, not maintenance of an idealistic value system, became paramount, and anyone or anything that threatened that survival was a fit object of violence. When women spit on injured enemy soldiers, when snipers fired out of private homes, when guerillas attacked and then melted into the countryside, the soldier wreaked his vengeance. The war was no longer a battle between two courageous armies; it had become a total war between two societies.

When the war ended, the soldier went home, at first, Linderman writes, not wanting to discuss the conflict. After all, society still talked in the romantic terms the soldier had long ago discarded. Around the 1880s, however, he joined in the revival of martial interest, and his selective memory caused him to revert to his earlier conceptions of courage and honor. When the Spanish-American War began in 1898, the generation of soldiers, raised on Civil War romanticism, marched off expressing those same ideas.

Linderman's basic argument is persuasive, but readers will not agree with everything. This reviewer, for example, found the comments on Sherman unconvincing. Sherman's adoption of total war came out of a lifetime of experience and not simply from a perception of all Confederates as the enemy. In fact, he continued to see Southerners as friends, even while he inflicted total war on them.

Linderman's discussion of postwar attitudes is similarly not convincing. For example, he holds that the Grand Army of the Republic's small membership in the immediate postwar years was proof that soldiers did not want to talk about the war. Yet he ignores the existence and yearly meetings of such organizations as the Society of the Army of Tennessee and the Society of the Army of the Potomac.

Such caveats aside, this book is a classic. It is one of those publications all Civil War historians and buffs will be wise to read.

Mississippi State University

JOHN F. MARSZALEK

Crowns of Thorns and Glory—Mary Todd Lincoln and Varina Howell Davis: The Two First Ladies of the Civil War. By Gerry Van der Heuvel. (New York: E. P. Dutton, 1988. ix, 306 pp. Acknowledgments, epilogue, illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$19.95.)

Gerry Van der Heuvel presents the many facets of Mary Lincoln, who has been described as having “an emotional temperament much like an April day, sunning all over with laughter one moment, the next crying as if her heart would break” (p. 12). The reader will feel compassion for the woman who “wanted what she wanted when she wanted it” (p. 22). Much of the slander heaped upon Mary Lincoln in the past is successfully refuted, particularly that by William H. Herndon which David Donald has previously publicized.

Varina Davis has similar experiences to her northern counterpart. Both women lost a child while they were serving as first lady, both outlived all but one of their children, and both suffered at the hands of the press. Unlike Mary, Varina became a woman of letters and a significant symbol of national reconciliation.

Although the two women never met, they had many acquaintances in common. How they differed in their opinions of these individuals is one of the highlights of this dual biography. Another plus is the author’s literary ability. The transitions between the two subjects are smooth. Their husbands’ event-filled careers are suitably brief.

The author’s experience with Washington society and the lifestyle of a first lady enables her to bring a unique insight to her subjects. Any lack of training as a historian is not reflected in the substantial bibliography, which is misleading because it omits cited manuscript collections. The illustrations provide a visual chronicle of the two women and their families.

Because her subjects were at least indirectly involved with so many events, it is understandable that a few factual errors found their way into the text. The most glaring is Stonewall Jackson’s place of interment, which is Lexington, Virginia, rather than in Kentucky. Van der Heuvel also leads the reader to believe that Clay’s original Omnibus Bill was passed. There is no mention of Stephen Douglas’s role in the breaking up of that bill and in the final passage of the Compromise of 1850. This omission is sur-

prising because Douglas is mentioned repeatedly, more often than the index indicates.

There are other shortcomings. Footnotes are limited and appear at the end of the book. Some of the quotations lack citations. For some unfathomable reason, informational notes appear in the text, at the bottom of the page, and among the endnotes. I was left wondering why the author dismissed Jefferson Davis's supposed infidelities during the 1870s as "unfounded gossip" (p. 248) in contrast to the thoroughness she displayed elsewhere. Despite that inconsistency and my irritation at the intrusive notes, I could hardly put the book down.

Southeastern Louisiana University

LAWRENCE L. HEWITT

The Confederate Carpetbaggers. By Daniel E. Sutherland. (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1988. xv, 360 pp. Acknowledgments, photographs, notes, appendix, bibliographical note, index. \$40.00 cloth; \$16.95 paper.)

About 16,000 Southerners settled in the North between 1860 and 1870; several thousand more followed by 1880. Daniel Sutherland's book is about those—surely a majority—who had supported the Confederacy during the war. He has found enough biographical information to justify generalization of about 571 of them. Nearly all of this "core group" came North for economic reasons. Almost 30 percent had friends or relatives already in the North, and 17 percent had lived there before the war. Only 6 percent, in fact, had had no previous connection with the North. Over one-half were thirty years of age or younger when they moved North, and nearly two-thirds spent the remainder of their lives there. The great majority were (or became) businessmen and professionals. As a result, they were predominantly urban, nearly 70 percent of them living in only seven cities: New York, Brooklyn, Chicago, Philadelphia, Cincinnati, Boston, and Evansville, Indiana. In fact, about one-half of them settled in New York and Brooklyn.

Although Sutherland's core group gets occasional mention throughout the book, he gives most of his attention to a much smaller number, chiefly adoptive New Yorkers. They were

clearly the most cooperative in leaving literary remains. This approach, while understandable, creates a persistent disjuncture between the broader core group— themselves more prominent than the whole— and the small elite who get individual attention. The latter include men (and a few women) of real stature, most of it acquired in the postwar North. Roger A. Pryor of Virginia, however, was a well-known journalist and politician before migrating to New York and taking up a legal and judicial career there. Burton N. Harrison was private secretary to Jefferson Davis. Imprisoned until January 1866, he too became a leading member of the New York Bar. His wife Constance, who receives equal billing, quickly achieved social prominence in New York before emerging in the 1870s as a popular writer of romantic stories about the Old South and the Lost Cause. Thomas Fortune Ryan, an impoverished Virginia veteran, made a fortune on Wall Street and became something of a power in the national Democratic party.

Not surprisingly, virtually all of these persons were Democrats. Sixty-one held public office in the North, mostly at the local level; one, John R. Fellows of New York, made it to Congress. Sutherland uses the term *carpetbagger* loosely, as did his subjects, who sometimes referred to themselves jocularly in that fashion without regard to politics. Nearly all took pains to soothe sectional feelings while retaining most of the racial and political values of their youth. Life in the North gradually became easier for them, especially in the 1880s and later, as Northerners retreated from Reconstruction, acquiesced in the disfranchisement and segregation of southern blacks, and used racial distinctions to justify overseas imperialism.

Sutherland has pored through a host of manuscript collections and published works. He writes well, skillfully relating his leading characters to the evolving national culture of the Gilded Age and later. But one comes away knowing less than one might about the other 550-odd characters, and the thousands more beyond. What started as a demographic study based largely on the census became the collective intellectual biography of a small elite. Both are legitimate, but the former in particular was never finished.

*University of North Carolina
at Greensboro*

ALLEN W. TRELEASE

From Port to Port: An Architectural History of Mobile Alabama, 1711-1918. By Elizabeth Barrett Gould. (Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 1988. x, 317 pp. Preface, illustrations, appendixes, abbreviations, notes, bibliography, index. \$39.95.)

With the appearance of *From Port to Port*, Elizabeth Barrett Gould provides one more reason for her reputation as the preeminent architectural historian of Mobile. It would be a disservice to call this a coffee table book, since that implies appearance without substance, even though this generously illustrated, oversized volume provides hours of interesting browsing. In addition, the author provides us with substance. Elizabeth Gould gives an outline of the economic and social history of Mobile and explains how the buildings fit into local events as well as the flow of American architectural history. In her preface, Professor Gould clearly defines her purpose: "The development of a city can be traced in many ways, including by its architectural history. A building is a form wrapped around an activity that occupies interior space. The space and its flow tell much about the customs of the times. . . . By tracing architectural changes from 1711 to 1918, we may watch Mobile's transformation from an early French Colonial fort to a modern commercial center." To her credit, Gould includes both the landmark buildings in Mobile and the commonplace, the highstyle and the vernacular. After finishing this volume, readers will have an appreciation for the broad spectrum of Mobile's architectural legacy.

Unfortunately this book could be titled *Lost Mobile*. At times it appears to be a catalog of significant buildings that have been lost over the years. Residences, institutional buildings, hotels, and churches have been lost to fires, hurricanes, demolition, or the pressures of growth in a leading city in the "New South." It was the loss of so many of these architectural gems that led to the establishment of the Oakleigh Historic District, the Mobile Historic Preservation Commission, and other community-wide and neighborhood-based preservation organizations. Within the past two years, historic preservationists in Mobile successfully defended landmark structures in their downtown from the construction of a major highway. Mobile serves as an example for other communities in their efforts to preserve their architectural heritage.

From Port to Port joins the growing number of volumes documenting the architectural history of communities. Professor Gould— and Mobile— can be proud that this volume stands in good stead with others in this genre. Historic preservationists, architectural historians, historians, and Southerners (whether defined by geography or by inclination) will find this a valuable addition to their libraries.

National Trust for Historic Preservation LINDA V. ELLSWORTH
Mid-Atlantic Regional Office
Philadelphia Pennsylvania

Atlanta, 1847-1890: City Building in the Old South and the New. By James Michael Russell. (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1988. xiii, 314 pp. Acknowledgments, introduction, tables, maps, photographs, epilogue, appendices, bibliographical essay, index. \$32.50.)

Historians have begun to devote increasing attention to the development of cities in the nineteenth-century South. Like other historians of the region, urban historians have focused their analyses on the plantation economy, the Civil War, and the emergence of the “New South.” In a persuasive and well-researched book, James Michael Russell examines business leaders and boosterism in nineteenth-century Atlanta. This study is particularly interesting because Russell analyzes the relationship between Old South values, New South ideologies, and “city-building strategies” in Atlanta.

Even before the Civil War, Russell explains, the economy of Atlanta possessed a vitality that was lacking in cotton-belt cities. In part, the city’s upcountry location accounted for this distinctive character, but Russell also traces Atlanta’s dynamism to the backgrounds of the local elite. The city’s antebellum economic leaders, for example, had few ties to Old South society and rejected the ideals of the planter aristocracy. Instead, Russell argues, they struggled to create an environment and a “spirit” that would attract capital, industry, and entrepreneurs, thus “anticipating” the “New South ideologies” (p. 5). Because the Civil War, according to Russell, did not dramatically alter the course of Atlanta’s development, postwar businessmen were

able to build on the ideological foundation forged before the war. As a result, Atlanta “entered the New South era with a reservoir of values and city-building ideas that had already coalesced” (p. 260).

Although Russell presents a great deal of evidence to support his argument, a few important issues might have been explored in greater detail. Much of this study is devoted to a comparison of Atlanta’s prewar and postwar business elite. But Russell describes the composition of the elite more effectively than he analyzes the formation of that group. For example, his examination of city leaders—before and after 1865—reveals that most members of the elite migrated to Atlanta from small towns in the region. The process by which men of means were attracted to Atlanta, therefore, shaped the city’s development, though Russell does not examine this theme in depth. Furthermore, he finds continuity in the character of the elite but not in individual leadership; a new elite emerged after 1865. Additional attention might have been devoted to the cause of this shift.

Russell also introduces issues that cannot be easily addressed with the source materials that he consults. For example, his discussion of “social values,” which emphasizes the progressive spirit of local residents, is based largely on public pronouncements about the economy and on booster literature. Business leaders in most growing cities, however, defined culture in the language of boosterism. It seems unlikely that such bland rhetoric would have dominated social values in Atlanta.

Similarly, women are barely mentioned in Russell’s discussion of local culture and thus seem to exert no influence on the formation of the city’s middle class.

Overall, however, Russell has written a strong book on an extremely important topic in southern and urban history. Even though he raises more questions than he is able to answer in this volume, Russell’s analysis sheds considerable light on the development of Atlanta and on the sources of urban growth in the nineteenth-century South.

University of Florida

JEFFREY S. ADLER

Telling Memories Among Southern Women: Domestic Workers and Their Employers in the Segregated South. By Susan Tucker. (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1988. xi, 279 pp. Acknowledgments, preface, notes, photographic essay. \$24.95.)

The relationship between southern domestic workers and their white employers bears striking resemblance to the master/slave relationship of the antebellum South. Both black domestic workers and slaves who worked in the "Big House" were treated as inferiors, worked long hard hours, were paid little or nothing, and were sometimes subjected to abuse. In order to survive these often humiliating and degrading conditions, both masked their feelings and became masters of manipulation.

Susan Tucker, with the aid of Mary Yelling, conducted ninety-two interviews between 1980-1985 with black and white women from Florida, Alabama, and Louisiana. Forty-two of these edited interviews make up *Telling Memories Among Southern Women*. These "collective memories" dramatically reveal the glaring social and economic inequities, the love/hate relationship that existed between the black servant and her white employer, the ever-present paternalism, and the changes that have taken place in the employer/servant relationship since the 1880s. Black domestics, Tucker contends, bridged the two races. They "acted as interpreters of white life to blacks, of black life to whites, and as messengers between these two groups" (p. 86).

Many of the white women interviewed recalled fond memories of their "mammies." These women employed black domestics in their homes in keeping with southern tradition, and in part to provide their children with a childhood reminiscent of their own. The complexity of such bonds are revealed in the personal accounts of both black and white women. As children, white women loved and adored their black "mammies," but as adults they treated them as inferiors. It was difficult to reconcile custom and feelings.

Black women often resented having to leave their own children at home while they played surrogate mother to white youth. White employers, on the other hand, apparently rarely gave thought to the quality of child care provided for their servants' children or the long hours that they spent away from them. Even though the pay was sometimes ridiculously small,

domestic work was better than agricultural labor, and there were occasional benefits.

Telling Memories is about survival and strength. As slaves, mothers did what was necessary to keep their families together. In freedom, black domestics did the same. White women often admired the strength of their black employees, who frequently gave them emotional support. Tucker claims that in a sense the black domestic was a role model to the young girls they helped raise. "White women, in times of change and crisis, remembered the resilience and the perseverance, as well as practical responses, of black women to such problems as child care and money management" (p. 132).

There is a question of whether forty-two women from Gulf coast cities accurately reflect the experience of southern domestics. How different was the life of the thousands of household workers in rural areas? The author's decision to translate Black English into standard English and to change sentence order may have made the book more readable at the expense of realism. Yet *Telling Memories* is interesting, informative, and a welcome addition to the growing body of women's, oral, and black history.

Florida State University

MAXINE D. JONES

Contemporary Southern Politics. Edited by James F. Lea. (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1988. 309 pp. Introduction, maps, tables, graphs, note on contributors, index. \$35.00.)

A crusty old history professor once told his graduate students that if they were asked about any particular era of western civilization about which they knew nothing, to respond, "It was an age of transition and the middle class was rising." Such is said perennially about the South. The phrase "New South" is hackneyed— but accurate.

The South of James Lea's book is not the South of V. O. Key, nor even of T. Harry Williams. As Cecil L. Eubanks states in an eloquent concluding essay, "A remarkable paradox of modern American politics is that in the past two decades, the region of the country least sympathetic to change, the South, appears to have changed the most" (p. 287). This still-poorest

section of the nation has the fastest growing economy; most conservative, it is growing more liberal while the rest of the nation is growing more conservative. The politics of race is receding, yet many of the new, young, highly educated governors are more conservative than their racist predecessors on economic matters.

One of the major themes of the book is expressed by John Van Wingen and David Valentine, who write, "Mobilization, immigration, and generational replacement slowly have made the South a much less distinct region of the country" (p. 143). Timothy G. O'Rourke echoes this theme when he states that "'South' and 'southern' are losing their distinctiveness in the national context" (p. 33). Earl W. Hawkey, in discussing ideology as measured by public opinion polling in the North and the South, concludes that "there is no statistically significant difference between the two regions in either 1976 or 1980" (p. 40). In his conclusion, Hawkey writes, "In most matters region is probably not a very important variable in explaining public attitudes" (p. 57). Television, industrialization, political consultants, polling, bureaucratic reform, education, and civil rights have done much to homogenize our national culture. The South is less distinct now than at any time since the Civil War. Some Southerners may lament this, but it is inevitable. Almost every essay in *Contemporary Southern Politics* attests to this trend.

The essays address some obvious questions—politics, race relations, and demographic trends—and some ignored issues—bureaucratization, the judiciary, and legislative recruitment and reform. The essays are uniformly of high quality—there is not a weak one among them. Several are outstanding: Earl W. Hawkey on public opinion, John Van Wingen and David Valentine on partisan politics, Timothy G. O'Rourke on demographic trends, and Joseph B. Parker on new campaign techniques. Moreover, editor James Lea has skillfully integrated the essays; references to other essays in the book are made by individual authors. Cecil L. Eubanks elegantly sums up the conclusions. The research is thorough and up-to-date, and there are useful charts and graphs. The authors, while not oversimplifying, all write in a style comprehensible to the average reader. Political scientists, historians, and sociologists of Florida and of the South will find much of use here.

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

GLEN JEANSONNE

Gerald L. K. Smith: Minister of Hate. By Glen Jeansonne. (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1988. xii, 283 pp. Acknowledgments, prologue, photographs, notes, essay on sources, index. \$25.00.)

H. L. Mencken described Gerald L. K. Smith as “the greatest rabble-rouser seen on earth since Apostolic times” (p. 39). His message, however, won considerably fewer converts. Drawing on an impressive array of sources, including Smith’s personal papers, Glen Jeansonne’s biography catalogs Smith’s life in such detail that it is likely to stand as the definitive work on the subject.

Born in Wisconsin, Smith was descended from “three generations of fire-and-brimstone, circuit-riding, fundamentalist preachers” (p. 11). Smith also became a minister, but his oratorical talent and ambition quickly took him from small midwest churches to the largest Christian Church in Louisiana. There he was attracted to Huey Long, and in 1934, he quit his ministry to become national organizer for Long’s Share Our Wealth Society. Political power, however, eluded Smith. After Long’s death, Smith helped fuse the movements led by Father Coughlin and Dr. Frances Townsend into the Union party of 1936, but even Smith’s spell-binding oratory could not overcome the popularity of the New Deal. After several years of groping for an ideology that would win him a mass following and keep him in the limelight, Smith emerged as a rabid anti-Semite and anti-Communist who relied on manufactured incidents and fabricated stories. His fanaticism soon cost him the support of political allies, such as Senator Arthur H. Vandenberg, and he found himself permanently confined to the fringes of American politics. After the 1940s he devoted himself largely to writing hate-filled tracts and raising money through direct-mail campaigns.

Jeansonne’s revealing, and hence unflattering, portrait of this “minister of hate” generally reinforces the view of Smith as a Depression demagogue who briefly exploited his own oratorical talent and the malaise of the 1930s to attract large audiences. Jeansonne concludes that “Smith’s demagoguery probably peaked in 1935 and 1936” (p. 7). However, Smith peddled his hate for another forty years until his death in 1976. Jeansonne devotes most of his study to the years after 1936, charting Smith’s various activities, cataloging his supporters, examining his finances, and exploring what made Gerald run.

No one is likely to add any new wrinkles to Jeansonne's description of Smith's life, but debate will continue over the motives and goals that drive demagogues like Smith. Jeansonne opts for a psychological explanation of Smith's behavior, suggesting that "the rigidity of his upbringing could have led to development of a classic authoritarian personality" (p. 101). Jeansonne contends that Smith harbored a repressed hatred of his parents, and "the hatred Smith vented on Jews, blacks, Communists and liberals may have been meant for his parents" (p. 181). Smith was certainly a troubled man, but an interpretation of his life that rests on psychological theories remains highly speculative.

The author makes it clear that he "never had any ambivalence toward Smith, never cheered him on, never hoped he would be triumphant" (p. 214). Yet Jeansonne occasionally succumbs to the temptation to overestimate the importance of his subject. For example, in a chapter on Smith's presidential campaigns, which won him less than 2,000 votes in 1944 and a total of eight write-in votes in 1956, Jeansonne contends somewhat expansively that Smith "represented a small but significant portion of the electorate" (p. 170). Closer to the mark is Jeansonne's conclusion that "Smith was not as much a threat as he might have become" (p. 217). This excellent biography explains why Smith failed.

University of South Florida

ROBERT P. INGALLS

The Crisis of American Labor: Operation Dixie and the Defeat of the CIO. By Barbara S. Griffith. (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1988. xvi, 239 pp. Acknowledgments, preface, photographs, notes, bibliography, index. \$29.95.)

Griffith announces that her purpose is "to open up" rather than "wrap up" the historical threads concerning Operation Dixie. Her book, however, is disorganized, repetitious, and often dull. Moreover, she fails to place Operation Dixie in its historical framework. Opening the topic, she tangles the threads.

Following World War II, "it was clear to many in the Congress of Industrial Organizations that a Southern drive had to

be undertaken, both to consolidate the impressive gains labor made during the war and to remove the South as a non-union haven for 'runaway' Northern business" (p. xiii). The CIO targeted the largest manufacturers, believing that if they could be unionized, a transforming effect would ripple through the workers and result in the unionization of most of that industry. In the South, textile manufacturing was the largest industry, and the Cannon Mills at Kannapolis, North Carolina, was one of the giants.

In August 1946, workers at three nearby mills voted against unionization. At Kannapolis, the CIO did not win sufficient support even to call an election. Thus, in a "ninety-day period . . . the drive to organize the Southern textile industry had been decisively defeated. . . . Operation Dixie had collapsed in textiles" (p. 36). Griffith describes this defeat in the first forty pages, the causes for defeat in the next 100, but she devotes little to the ensuing years of Operation Dixie, 1947-1953.

Griffith relies heavily on the accounts of the organizers themselves, but she neglects to incorporate sufficient material on earlier organizing drives: Gastonia in 1929, and the general textile strike of 1934. And though her material from the organizers is invaluable, she fails to provide details as to what mill work was really like; one learns more about Carolina textile workers in the autobiography of Junius Scales. Moreover, though Griffith may not have had access to Edward Beardsley's book on mill-worker health care, she should have devoted more than a partial sentence to the issue. Worse, her reproach of the organizers is more damning to her own investigation. "Without a clear demonstration of the advantages of union membership . . . workers proved reluctant to risk the present for the unknown benefits of an uncertain future" (p. 170). Only on one page (p. 40) does she bother to present reasons for joining the CIO.

Griffith's discussion of southern racism, religion, company towns, and intimidation are occasionally revealing, but also condescending. She notes that the Southern Conference on Human Welfare supported CIO unions because of their common opposition to racism, but she omits Operation Dixie leader Van Bittner's attack on the conference at the outset of the campaign. And blaming the Republican party victories for the black list, Griffith absolves the Truman administration of responsibility for its own cold-war purges.

Griffith asserts that with Operation Dixie's demise, there were no trade union winners. What about the AFL? The CIO's defeat in the South and the purge of its left prepared the way for the AFL-CIO merger under the banner of AFL business unionism.

There is valuable information in this work, but Griffith never raises a major question— would the South have developed into the Sunbelt had it not been a haven for runaway industry? Operation Dixie's defeat was significant to the South and to the nation, as was the defeat of the Progressive party in 1948, and the success of the civil rights movement later. But she does not explore possible links between these movements. Another scholar will likely have to “wrap up” Operation Dixie.

Jackson Heights, NY

HUGH MURRAY

BOOK NOTES

The latest edition of *The Florida Handbook, 1989-1990* is published. This is the twenty-second biannual edition of Florida's most useful reference book. As with all of its predecessors, the *Handbook* was compiled by Allen Morris, dean of Florida legislative history. An examination of its table of contents reveals the *Handbook's* broad coverage: history, religion, tourism, literature, museums, climate, sports, minerals, marine resources, agriculture, education, women in government, and a wide variety of interesting and important political facts and figures. Pictures and biographical data on Governor Martinez and members of the cabinet are included, in addition to a listing of state agencies together with their statutory responsibilities and current addresses and telephone numbers. There are also pictures and biographical sketches of all of Florida's governors beginning with Andrew Jackson in 1821, and data on the popular vote in Florida for presidential candidates beginning in 1848, and the votes for governor in general elections since 1845 and in the Democratic party primaries since 1916. *The Florida Handbook* reports the expenses of the gubernatorial campaigns of 1978, 1982, and 1986. In 1982, Bob Graham spent \$2,166,289.77; in 1986, it cost Bob Martinez \$7,236,786.29 to win his election. A very useful part of the *Handbook* is the complete Constitution of Florida as it was revised in 1968 and subsequently amended. There is an index to the Constitution, as well as one to the whole volume. *The Florida Handbook, 1989-1990* was published by the Peninsula Publishing Company, Tallahassee, and it sells for \$29.95.

Our Family: Facts and Fancies, the Moreno and Related Families was compiled by Regina Moreno Kirchoff Mandrell in collaboration with William S. Coker and Hazel P. Coker. *Our Family* is more than a genealogical study; it provides important historical information for a 200-year period of west Florida's history. The Moreno family has played a major role in the history of Pensacola and the area beginning in the eighteenth century. The earliest Moreno in Florida was Fernando Moreno who came to Pensacola from Havana as a midshipman on a Spanish schooner. He later studied medicine and was assigned to Fort

[119]

Barrancas as a surgeon. His son, Francisco Moreno, was born in Pensacola, November 25, 1790. Through the years the Morenos and other families associated with them through marriage have played major leadership roles in the political, economic, social, and intellectual life of Pensacola and the Panhandle. One example is Stephen R. Mallory, United States Senator and Secretary of the Navy in the Confederate Cabinet, who married Angela Moreno. Other families listed in Mrs. Mandrell's study as relatives—Mandrell, Kirchoff, Pasco, Whifield, Bryars, and Burne families—have all produced community leaders. This volume on the Moreno and related families is the third in the Southern History and Genealogy Series published by the Perdido Bay Press. It may be ordered from the Press, Route 2, Box 323, Pensacola, FL 32506; the price is \$35.

A Guide to Florida's Historic Architecture was prepared by the Florida Association of the American Institute of Architects. Each county is represented with an architectural history, a list of historic sites, and a map locating the sites. The structures were chosen for their historic and architectural significance. Each guide entry is identified by a photograph, name, address, and brief description. The task of researching, writing, photographing, and assembling the guide was accomplished by members of the FAAIA. Using data prepared by graduate students in the Department of Architecture, University of Florida, architects throughout the state explored Florida's counties and met with local authorities to identify, locate, and photograph a variety of structures, and then to prepare an architectural history of each county. The *Guide* was coordinated and edited by F. Blair Reeves and Mary Nell Gibson Reeves. Published by the University of Florida Press, the *Guide* sells for \$19.95.

Flagler's Grand Hotel Alcazar is by Thomas Graham. Flagler, Rockefeller's partner in Standard Oil, visited St. Augustine three times before he decided to invest in the area. He believed St. Augustine could become a winter Newport if it had first-class hotels, places of amusement, and a modern railroad to link the community with the North. Plans were drawn by New York architects Thomas Hastings and John Carrère for two hotels—the Ponce de Leon and the Alcazar. The Ponce would be the centerpiece of the complex, but integral to the plan would be

the Alcazar and a casino. The Alcazar was ready in the fall of 1888 just when the terrible yellow fever epidemic had scared off many tourists. The hotel opened regardless, and the first guests were registered on Christmas day. Everyone was delighted with the lavish hotel and its facilities, the casino, and its Turkish and Russian baths. According to the advertisements, the baths could cure heart disease, gout, rheumatism, liver and kidney diseases, neurosthenia, and obesity. There was also a pool. Unfortunately, the water, from an artesian well, was permeated with sulphur, giving it a "rotten egg" smell. The pool was open to the public, and for twenty-five cents St. Augustine folks could swim in the same pool enjoyed by millionaires and society matrons. Graham's fascinating account details the history of one of Florida's most historic hotels. The building is today being used for city offices and as the home of the Lightner Museum.

Thomas Graham's "Flagler's Magnificent Hotel Ponce de Leon," was published in the *Florida Historical Quarterly*, volume 54, July 1975. It has been reprinted, including photographs, as a pamphlet by the St. Augustine Historical Society. Each of Professor Graham's monographs sell for \$2.50; if ordered together, the price is \$4.00. Contact the St. Augustine Historical Society, 271 Charlotte Street, St. Augustine, FL 32084.

Kevin McCarthy is editor of *Florida Stories*, a collection of short stories by some of America's best-known writers. All of the stories relate to Florida, and all of the authors have lived in the state at one time or another. Each story is introduced by a short essay by McCarthy showing the author's connection to or interest in the state. The writers, and the settings for their stories, include Andrew Lytle (Tampa), Sarah Orne Jewett (St. Augustine), Stephen Crane (off Daytona Beach and Ponce de Leon Inlet), Ring Lardner (St. Petersburg), Ernest Hemingway (Key West), Edwin Granberry (southwest Florida), Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings (Marion County), Philip Wylie (Miami), James Leo Herlihy (Key West), MacKinlay Kantor (Lake Okeechobee), Gore Vidal (Key West), Zora Neale Hurston (Jacksonville), Theodore Pratt (Palm Beach), Donald Justice (Miami), John D. MacDonald (Sarasota), Isaac Bashevis Singer (Miami Beach), and Harry Crews (Fort Lauderdale). Professor McCarthy, a member of the English faculty at the University of Florida, is

himself a well-known Florida author and a collector of data relating to Florida writers and poets. *Florida Stories* was published by the University of Florida Press; it sells in paperback for \$14.95.

Hernando County, Our Story is by Alfred A. McKethan, a prominent Brooksville banker, whose maternal ancestors were among the earliest settlers in Hernando County. This account is based on his own research and personal recollections and on oral tradition. Hernando County, carved out of Alachua County, was opened for white settlement with the passage of the Armed Occupation Act of 1842. Brooksville was designated as the county seat. A prominent early resident of the area was Senator David Levy Yulee who owned a large sugar plantation and operated a mill at Homosassa. Other early settlers whose activities are described in McKethan's history were John Parsons, Frederick Lykes, and Francis Ederington. One of Ederington's descendants, Dorothy, married John J. Hale, and they were the grandparents of Alfred McKethan. Agriculture, education, business, transportation, religion, social life, and cattle are among the topics covered in this account. Included also are many photographs, some of which are being published for the first time. The book was privately printed and is being sold by the Heritage Museum, 601 East Jefferson, Brooksville, FL 34601; the price is \$18.50, plus \$3.00 postage.

In 1975, in honor of the Bicentennial, the Dunedin Historical Society, under the direction of Albert C. Cline and William L. Davidson, began publishing in the *Dunedin Times* a series of articles entitled "Vignettes From Dunedin's Past." Davidson then reworked, expanded, and edited the articles which were published as a book in 1978 with the title *Dunedin Through the Years, 1850-1978*. It was a limited edition and was soon out of print. The Society has reprinted the volume with corrections and additions. The updated material came from questionnaires submitted by local people. While the origin of the name Dunedin is not clear, several explanations of its meaning and derivation are examined. It is said that Dunedin is the oldest community on the west coast of Florida south of Cedar Key. Who first settled there and when is also not certain. The records indicate that it was J. O. Douglas and James Summerville, two Scotsmen

who operated a general store and received authority to open a post office in 1878. The historical information tracing the growth of Dunedin and the many pictures makes this an important local history volume. Order from the Society, 341 Main Street (P. O. Box 2393), Dunedin, FL 34697; the price is \$19.88, plus \$1.50 postage.

Much has changed in the area of Southern American English since 1971 when the annotated bibliography of *Southern American English*, compiled by James B. McMillan and Michael B. Montgomery, was first published. The cutoff date for that first edition was 1969. It covered more than 1,100 items, in addition to book reviews. In the nearly two decades since, new research has increased the literature relevant to Southern American English. This volume, published by the University of Alabama Press, includes more than 3,800 items, grouped into twelve chapters. The 1971 edition defined the South as "the area south of the Mason-Dixon Line, and the Ohio River westward to Arkansas and East Texas." The present volume expands the geography to encompass fourteen states south and west of the Mason-Dixon Line from Delaware Bay to Texas, including the District of Columbia. Items on folklore and literary language that discuss specific dialect features are listed. As a result, the Work Projects Administration's ex-slave narratives and similar items are not included. Works on foreign languages spoken in the region are listed when they relate to influences on Southern English. Newspaper and local magazine items are generally excluded because, according to the editors, they are usually quite brief and generally inaccessible to most users. General treatments of American English— grammar, dictionaries, and usage books that include some commentary on Southern English— are listed. Entries recognize the variety of southern dialects and the diversity of the language of such specific southern groups as blacks, Appalachians, Sea Islanders, urbanites, and rural people. The study of Black English is reported, as are linguistic aspects of social and cultural adjustments arising from population mobility both inside and outside the region. The editors believe that one should know what happens when Southern English comes into contact with varieties of American English spoken outside the region. Chapter titles indicate the extensive scope of this volume: General Studies; Historical and Creole

Studies; Lexical Studies; Phonetics and Phonology; Morphology and Syntax; Place Name Studies; Personal and Miscellaneous Name Studies; Figurative Language, Exaggerations, and Word-Play; Literary Dialect; Language Attitudes and Speech Perception; and Speech Act and Style. There is a listing of thirty-five bibliographies and a name index. Many Florida items are included. The book sells for \$32.95.

Dreamers & Defenders, American Conservationists, by Douglas H. Strong, discusses the concerns of some government officials and private citizens during the nineteenth century over the increasing exploitation of land and natural and mineral resources in the United States, particularly in the West, but also the South. As population grew, new lands were opened for settlement and economic development. A few writers and scientists like Henry David Thoreau, Frederick Law Olmsted, and Georgia Perkins Marsh began promoting the concept of conservation, but it was Theodore Roosevelt and his chief forester, Gifford Pinchot, who organized an effective government-sponsored movement. In the 1930s a second strong conservation program arose under the leadership of Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes. The Civilian Conservation Corps played an important role in doing needed work. More recently, in the 1960s a third wave of conservation activity was spurred by such scientists as Rachel Carson and Barry Commoner. Efforts to preserve the Everglades and other wilderness areas in Florida are examples of what was happening as a result of the conservation movements. *Dreamers & Defenders* was published by the University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln, NE; it sells for \$9.95.

Items for the *The Illustrated Confederate Reader* were selected and edited by Rod Gragg, and the book was published by Harper & Row. The *Reader* contains a collection of personal experiences and eyewitness accounts by and about southern soldiers and civilians. The volume also includes some 200 period photographs and illustrations. There are several Florida items, including information on the First, Second, and Eighth Florida Infantries, General Joseph Finegan, Pensacola, Charles Seton Fleming, Dr. Richard P. Daniel of Jacksonville, and Edmund Kirby-Smith of St. Augustine. *The Illustrated Confederate Reader* sells for \$27.50.

A paperback edition of *Ghosts of the Confederacy: Defeat, the Lost Cause, and the Emergence of the New South, 1865-1913*, by Gaines M. Foster, first published in 1987, is available. Order from Oxford University Press; the price is \$10.95.

Come Retribution: The Federal Secret Service and the Assassination of Lincoln, by William A. Tidwell, James O. Hall, and David Winfred Gaddy, is a history of Confederate intelligence and covert operations. As a result of recent research, the existence of a Confederate Secret Service Bureau in the War Department has been confirmed. The total organization of the Confederate intelligence and covert effort has not yet been examined by scholars. This book begins that analysis. It describes the organization and some of its activities, particularly as it relates to the assassination of Lincoln. There is no documentary evidence yet uncovered that directly proves Confederate involvement, although there is much circumstantial evidence. It was widely believed in the North at the time that the Confederate government was likely involved in the assassination, and an effort was made to prove that theory. There were no conclusions drawn, though, in part because there was an absence of records and persons able or willing to testify. Published by the University of Mississippi Press, Jackson, the paperback sells for \$17.95.