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Book Reviews

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BOOK REVIEWS

The De Soto Chronicles: The Expedition of Hernando de Soto to North America in 1539-1543, Volume I. Edited by Lawrence A. Clayton, Vernon James Knight, Jr., and Edward C. Moore. (Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 1993. xxx, 569 pp. Board of Advisors, contributors, foreword, preface, acknowledgments, notes on translations and names, introduction, illustrations, maps, glossary, bibliography, index. \$50.00 per set.)

The De Soto Chronicles: The Expedition of Hernando de Soto to North America in 1539-1543, Volume II. Edited by Lawrence A. Clayton, Vernon James Knight, Jr., and Edward C. Moore. (Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 1993. x, 588 pp. Foreword, illustrations, maps, appendix, index. \$50.00 per set.)

The years 1989-1993 marked the 450th anniversary of the expedition of Hernando de Soto through the present southeastern United States. Recognition of this anniversary and the Columbian Quincentenary of 1992 prompted much scholarly inquiry into the Spanish presence in North America. The publication of *The De Soto Chronicles* by the University of Alabama Press provides a fitting capstone to the observance and provides an important set of documents that will endure for generations.

The De Soto Chronicles combine translations of all known first-hand accounts of the expedition of De Soto with the early history by Garcilaso de la Vega, previously unpublished documents, and modern scholarly essays. An amazingly extensive bibliography of De Soto studies (599 entries) assembled by Jeffrey P. Brain and Charles Ewen also is included.

Volume I contains the bulk of the new material, as well as new translations of the accounts of Luys Hernández de Biedma (by John Worth), Rodrigo Ranjel (by John Worth), and A Gentleman of Elvas (by James Alexander Robertson with notes by John Hann). Newly translated documents include the recently discovered Cañate Fragment of another narrative (Eugene Lyon) and several small documents from the General Archive of the Indies, Seville (selected and introduced by Rocío Sánchez Rubio and

translated by David Bost). The volume also includes reprints of several documents previously translated by Buckingham Smith, such as the Concessions made by the king of Spain to De Soto, De Soto's will, a letter he wrote while at Tampa Bay, and others. A table of the parallel itinerary of the expedition, originally published as Appendix E of the *Final Report of the United States De Soto Expedition Commission* by John R. Swanton, is included.

Volume I also contains three new essays: two on the life of Hernando de Soto by Rocío Sánchez Rubio (translated by Eduardo Kortright) and Paul E. Hoffman, and an overall introduction to the expedition of De Soto by Paul E. Hoffman. The two biographical essays deserve comment, as both provide different perspectives on De Soto the man. The Rubio essay portrays De Soto from the perspective of a Spaniard proud of her countryman's exploration. She views De Soto as a man of his times. She characterizes De Soto as "a man whose life followed the knife edge between glory and failure; it was a life filled not only with wealth, triumph, and satisfaction, but also with toil, want, and suffering" (I, p. 385). Hoffman's brief biography follows the career of De Soto from birth to the beginnings of his North American adventure. Hoffman paints a portrait of a man whose dealings with Indians were cruel, even sadistic (I, p. 441), and shows De Soto to have been an independent man with driving ambition— an ambition that was thwarted in Peru, forcing him to seek fame in North America. Hoffman's essay is particularly adept at giving us a feel for the force of De Soto's personality.

Volume II contains the history of the De Soto expedition written by Garcilaso de la Vega and translated by Charmion Shelby for the 1935 United States De Soto Expedition Commission. It also contains an essay on Garcilaso by Frances Crowley and the genealogy of Garcí Pérez de Vargas written by Garcilaso.

The new translations of the accounts of the expedition are quite readable and serve to correct some errors and omissions of earlier translations. For example, the previously available Bourne translation of the Ranjel narrative omits mention of the town of Piachi that was visited after Ulibahali, but the new translation by Worth corrects this fault (I, p. 285).

The editors have chosen a useful array of illustrations to complement the documents and essays. They include maps, portraits, artifact photographs, period engravings, and modern drawings of soldiers of the period.

These handsomely produced volumes contain translations of virtually all known documents from the De Soto expedition, as well as important new scholarship. For the first time all of these sources are available in one place. All of this information (1157 pages) is provided for the unbelievably low price of \$50, thanks to support from the Alabama De Soto Commission, Historic Chatahoochee Commission, J. Conrad Dunagan, the National Endowment for the Humanities, Panamerican Consultants, Inc., The Program for Cultural Cooperation Between Spain's Ministry of Culture and United States' Universities, Southeastern Archaeological Conference, The De Soto Trail Commission, and an anonymous donor. The volumes are dedicated to Douglas E. Jones, chairman of the Alabama De Soto Commission and member of the De Soto Trail Commission, and provide a fitting tribute to his efforts to support De Soto studies. The editors, authors, translators, and support groups are to be congratulated for a lasting contribution to scholarship. These important volumes deserve to be on the shelves of every person interested in the history, ethnohistory, or archaeology of the southeastern United States.

Valdosta State University

MARVIN T. SMITH

Looking for DeSoto: A Search Through the South for the Spaniard's Trail.

By Joyce Rockwood Hudson. (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1993. xviii, 230 pp. Introduction, maps, epilogue, further reading. \$29.95.)

Looking for DeSoto is the story of a scholar's pursuit of the solution to an important historical question, a warm account of a couple's sharing of interests, and a glimpse of the modern South. The book is the journal that Joyce Hudson kept as she accompanied her husband, Charles Hudson, on a six-week trek across the South seeking evidence regarding the route followed by Hernando de Soto and his army in 1539.

The narrative begins in Gainesville, Florida, on November 11, 1984. The story follows the Hudson's journey of the next six weeks as they followed what Charles Hudson believed was the route followed by DeSoto. In all, the Hudsons traveled through eleven states, from Florida to Oklahoma and Texas. Along the way they met with archaeologists and other scholars interested in the six-

teenth-century Southeast. In some cases they were gratified to find support for the route that Hudson proposed: topography that matched descriptions by the chroniclers of the DeSoto expedition, archaeological evidence of native settlements dating to the time period, or the absence of settlements along alternative routes. In other instances, the evidence failed to support Hudson's route, and he was forced to rethink his proposal.

They also encountered the modern residents of the area. The book contains fascinating vignettes of life on the road, from sleazy motels to encounters with wonderful people. Hudson has a real feel for the South and its people. It is easy to recognize the familiar South in her writing.

Joyce Hudson's writing is clear, direct, and unaffected. It effectively expresses her husband's passion about the search for the route of DeSoto and her own concerns about the modern South. The book is not a history of DeSoto's exploration of the Southeast, nor is it a scholarly account of ethnohistorical and archaeological research on the route. Joyce Hudson calls it "the most transitory of documents, recording the ideas we were exploring at that particular time, for those few weeks." I would argue that it is considerably more than that. It is a fascinating look at a scholar pursuing a topic of consuming interest. It is also a sympathetic portrait of the modern rural South. If you are interested in the story of DeSoto, if you are interested in the pursuit of history, or if you are interested in the South, this is a book worth reading.

University of Kentucky

JOHN F. SCARRY

The Spanish Missions of La Florida. Edited by Bonnie G. McEwan. (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 1993. xxvi, 458 pp. Foreword, preface, introduction, figures, tables, contributors, index. \$49.95.)

How odd that the *Florida Historical Quarterly* should send this important book on Florida for review to me in New Mexico. How hopeful. Perhaps, as archaeologist David Hurst Thomas and historian David J. Weber have reminded us lately, you in the colonial Southeast and we in the colonial Southwest can learn from each other. Still, the millennium dawns slowly; only a few of the scholars

whose articles appear in this collection have anything comparative to say about New Mexico.

What is evident in each of these sixteen complementary progress reports, most by historical archaeologists, is the shared excitement of their common quest, which is nothing less than the rediscovery of seventeenth-century La Florida, human and physical, in and outside the missions. The majority are site-specific, arranged more or less in chronological and geographical order: Santa Catalina de Guale on St. Catherines Island (Thomas), Santa Maria and Santa Catalina on Amelia Island (Saunders), the Convento de San Francisco in St. Augustine (K. Hoffman), St. Augustine's relationship to the mission frontier (Deagan), missions to the Mayaca and Jororo (Hann), Santa Fe de Toluca (Johnson), San Martin de Timucua/Fig Springs (Weisman), San Agustín de Utica/Baptizing Spring (Loucks), the San Martin/Fig Springs burial area (Hoshower and Milanich), San Pedro y San Pablo de Patale (Marrinan), Hispanic life on the seventeenth-century Florida frontier (McEwan), mission bioarchaeology (Larsen), plant production and procurement in Apalachee Province (C. M. Scarry), animal use at the missions (Reitz), beads and pendants from San Luis de Talimali (Mitchem), and Apalachee colono-ware (Vernon and Cordell). All, in one way or another, measure the effects of Spaniards on natives (e.g. disease and mortuary practice) and vice versa (e.g. foodways).

On the surface, Southeast and Southwest were and are worlds apart. Ask archaeologists in Florida who use paired proton precession magnetometry, gradiometry, high-speed soil resistivity, and conductivity to locate deep in soggy soil a few postmolds and their New Mexico colleagues excavating along telltale mounds for two-meter-thick foundations of stream-worn boulders. But who has the advantage?

"Perhaps it is just as well," John W. Griffin reasons in the foreword, "that we in Florida have been denied the highly visible masonry or adobe missions of the western borderlands, because this denial has spared us the often faulty or fanciful restorations and reconstructions of other areas. . . . Should actual reconstruction come to our Florida missions, archaeology as presented in these pages will keep it honest" (p. xvi). Out of this denial, too, it would seem, has come closer cooperation between archaeologists and historians. With scant physical evidence on the ground, where do Spanish documents say these missions were? Most of the con-

tributors cite the evidential works of historian John H. Hann. And archaeologist Kathleen Deagan, discussing labor and trade patterns, intermarriage, and concubinage, poses questions a historian can understand.

Accepting the differences, we might look for similarities. Missionization of both areas, Southeast and Southwest, was entrusted to Franciscans. Figures cited in the foreword for the height of activity in La Florida in the mid seventeenth century— “40 missions manned by 70 friars serving 26,000 Christian Indians” (p. xv)— are almost identical for New Mexico. A suggestive team report on the Patale mission, presented by Rochelle A. Marrinan, who admits a visit to the Southwest, calls into question the too hastily constructed Florida mission model of small, haphazard, rustic settlements. Wait until enough entire sites have been excavated, she counsels. If Franciscan missions elsewhere adhered to a more orderly, grander plan, why not here? “I believe,” Marrinan concludes, “that we will find that the Franciscan missionaries of *La Florida* were equally capable” (p. 286). Amen.

University of New Mexico

JOHN L. KESSELL

The Creek. By J. T. Glisson. (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 1993. xvi, 267 pp. Foreword by Rip Torn, acknowledgments, introduction, illustrations, afterword, index. \$29.95, cloth; \$16.95, paper.)

Although Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings’s *Cross Creek*, published in 1942, contains memorable stories about the Creek and its people, J. T. Glisson, best known as Jake, extends that magic with his choric tales of being a young’un at the Creek more than fifty years later. The episodes begin with his parents, Tom and Pearlee Glisson, searching for a place in the Florida sun as opposed to working long hours in the farmlands of south Georgia and longing for land to call their own. Half of the money they had saved from their honest labors would cushion the journey.

In a used T-Model Ford truck, appropriately nicknamed Moses, taking a few household belongings, a few homemade canned vegetables, their two little tots Carlton and Marjorie, and high hopes, the Glissons were on their way south in 1921 on a

semiplotted course. South it was. Destination unknown. But when they came to Cross Creek, the search ended.

Tom stopped the truck. He and Pearlee stepped out midway of the old landmark steel bridge separating Orange Lake to the south and Lake Lochloosa to the north. They looked down at the gentle stream, enchanted, without speaking. Pearlee held their baby daughter in her arms, Carlton tugged at her skirt.

“The water was not the red clay color they were accustomed to; it was the clear amber of good Kentucky bourbon. Giant cypress trees along the banks mirrored the blue overhead . . . two homemade cypress boats floated beneath a huge live oak leaning over half the width of the creek. The boats were the only sign of human existence in the area other than the Bridge itself. Wildlife was everywhere: Egrets, cranes, and curlews waded along the edges, feeding on minnows and frogs, and soft-shell and alligator turtles poked their heads up for air, then disappeared beneath the surface.”

Tom then looked at Pearlee and asked, “What do you think?” “You brought me all the way down here,” she answered, “but now that I am here I would be willing to bet you, you’re not man enough to drag me away from this place.” They were content to stay.

Rural north central Florida was sparsely settled. There was no electricity, no inside plumbing, and no insect control. There was, on the other hand, a feeling of belonging and concern among the few families and assorted loners who comprised the unique community life.

In 1927, when J. T. was born, the Glisson family had settled into a relatively comfortable pattern of living off the land. They had a cow, a vegetable garden, plus an abundance of fish to eat and fish to sell from the two expansive lakes. The plan to buy their own land, however, was postponed. Baby J. T. was born with club feet and needed surgery to correct the deformity. The physician who delivered the baby arranged for treatment at the Shriners’ Hospital for Crippled Children in Greenville, South Carolina. J. T. was the first child to be admitted for treatment.

Three years later, having taken the baby in her lap by train back and forth from Cross Creek to the hospital, Pearlee’s J. T. could walk— even run. The dense forests with wild game, ham-mocks, snakes, alligators, and frogs were J. T.’s learning and playground. He became acquainted with net fishing, poaching,

whiskey stills, game wardens, and the Glisson's next door neighbor within hollerin' distance, "Miz Rawlings."

Known to the creek people as "the writer from up north," references to Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings are a part of J. T.'s most affectionate passages. And in the presence of Miz Rawlings and N. C. Wyeth (illustrator for *The Yearling*), J. T. was inspired to become an artist/illustrator, his successful profession.

The Creek is a gentle mix of good times, of tinseling Cracker voices, of not so good times, and of ongoing humor that springs from its characters in everyday experiences. For instance, Bernie Bass, lovable, the Creeks "most successful citizen," and "the most disconcerting person that outsiders encountered at the Creek"; Charlie, the poet of Burnt Island, also lovable, who got drunk once a year, got lost, then found; meetings at the Bridge, for men only, where disputes were settled amicably or with fisticuffs; the pleasures and platitudes of Mother Nature, summarily called "Ol' Gal."

In time, Tom and Pearlee realized their dream of owning land, and lots of it, along with a wholesale fish business. Then misfortune struck when Tom accidentally drank some tree poisoner from a gallon jug marked Coca-Cola that he mistook for water. The healthy fifty-year-old, 180-pound man faded into eternity. His last words to J. T. were:

"Son, life is like taking a trip on a train. Once you get on, you might as well make the best of the trip and enjoy the ride, because when the conductor decides for you to get off, this is as far as you go. . . . Take my advice and have a good trip, and enjoy it, and try not to miss anything."

J. T. hasn't missed much at all. His lessons learned as a boy from loving parents and his neighbors are a lingering presence in his book *The Creek*.

Gainesville, FL

KATHRYN HALL PROBY

Ringling: The Florida Years, 1911-1936. By David C. Weeks. (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 1993. xvii, 350 pp. Foreword, preface, chronology, photographs, notes, bibliography, index. \$49.95, cloth; \$24.95, paper.)

David Weeks, with *Ringling: The Florida Years, 1911-1936*, offers a fresh, penetrating presentation of the life and times of John Rin-

gling as a Floridian. Such was the man's impact during twenty-four years of winter residency, that a half century after his death he was selected in 1987 for the Florida Artists Hall of Fame. Along with Ernest Hemingway and Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, Ringling heads the list on a marble wall by the rotunda of the Capitol in Tallahassee. His importance today in Sarasota remains equally apparent.

Sarasota of 1911, the year John and Mable Ringling arrived, contrasted starkly with the city in 1936. John Ringling's death followed Mable's by seven years and occurred during the midst of the Great Depression. His financial and physical health depleted, the famous showman nevertheless left his mark. His bridges, statuary-lined and Australian-pine-bordered avenues, his commercial areas and subdivisions, the John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art, their palatial home Ca'D'Zan and winter quartering of Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus, permanently distinguished Sarasota from her coastal counterparts. A copy of Michelangelo's *David*, imported by Ringling for the museum, actually *became* the logo for the city of Sarasota. The Ringling imprint remains vivid today, six decades after his demise in New York, days before Ca'D'Zan was to be auctioned to satisfy his creditors.

Numerous works have addressed the Ringlings and their circus. These typically incorporate the Sarasota activities of John, his brother Charles, their sister Ida Ringling North, and their families and contemporaries. But no documentary work has been confined to John Ringling and his impact on Sarasota. David Weeks now fills that void.

Weeks consulted records in Manatee and Sarasota counties and in Tallahassee, *New York Times* accounts of Ringling's circus contemporaries, and court records dealing with Ringling lawsuits. Weeks met repeatedly with Henry Ringling North, John Ringling's nephew, protege, and heir who resided in Geneva, Switzerland, until his death in October 1993. From North, Weeks borrowed previously unpublished photographs of John and Mable, which add immeasurably to the value of the book by showing the couple in a new light.

The author used primary sources to document the broader aspects of Ringling— his oil wells in Oklahoma, his role as a major owner of the ornate Stanford White-designed Madison Square Garden after which Ca'D'Zan was styled; his western railroads and companies, ranches, and farms; the rail town he named Ringling,

and his private railroad cars and yachts and their winter dockings and sidings in Florida.

Weeks chronicles the important, often neglected, Sarasota context, noting the presence of other national figures, developers, winter season capitalists of New York City and Chicago, and local luminaries. Some minor errors along these lines include a description of Ringling as Sarasota's only art patron. Though Ringling's patronage was undoubtedly omnipresent, until her 1918 death Mrs. Potter Palmer's winter home was adorned with one of Monet's haystacks, along with works by Raffaello, Degas, and Cassatt from the prestigious Palmer collection in Chicago. Her descendants have maintained the tradition in their Sarasota homes.

David Weeks succeeds in compellingly readable fashion to focus new light upon John Ringling and his Sarasota contributions. His work and its endnotes, the legal processing of Ringling's bequest to the people of Florida, the epilogue regarding collections and restorations prior to the public opening of the museum and house a decade after Ringling's death and a comprehensive bibliography make important and lasting contributions to Sarasota and Florida history. The role of the wheeler dealers in the Florida land boom and the role of Ringling in particular in defining a modern city has been meticulously presented. *Ringling: The Florida Years* constitutes a fine piece of research and a welcome addition to the library of the scholar as well as every lover of good, non-fiction, documentary reading in Florida history.

Sarasota, FL

JANET SNYDER MATTHEWS

Farm Security Administration Photographs of Florida. By Michael Carle-bath and Eugene F. Provenzo, Jr. (Gainesville: University of Florida Press, 1993. xii, 127 pp. Preface, photographs, notes, bibliography, index. \$34.95, cloth; \$19.95, paper.)

Farm Security Administration Photographs of Florida examines photographs taken during the Great Depression and World War II by a succession of federal agencies: the Resettlement Administration (RA), Farm Security Administration (FSA), and Office of War Information (OWI). Between 1935 and 1943 John Collier, Dorothea Lange, Carl Mydans, Gordon Parks, Arthur Rothstein, and

Marion Post Wolcott took pictures of Florida from the panhandle to Key West. Michael Carlebach and Eugene F. Provenzo, Jr., faculty members at the University of Miami, explore the time, place, and topic of documentary photography through a forty-six page essay interfaced with photographs, which surveys Florida's difficulties in the 1920s and 1930s, the relief and recovery efforts of FDR, and the role of photographs in chronicling conditions, and a sixty-five-page folio of photographs laid out chronologically.

Farm Security Administration Photographs of Florida has a striking layout of some truly impressive images. But it is a problem-plagued book. The essay and bibliography have all of the pretensions of an introduction but none of the substance. The fiftieth anniversary of the FSA project resulted in a spate of state studies: *Mountaineers to Mainstreet* (1985), *A Kentucky Album* (1986), *Heartland New Mexico* (1989), and *A South Carolina Album* (1991). Coincidentally, several seminal books exploring the uses and abuses of documentary photography on the national scene appeared: *Dust Bowl Descent* (1984), *Let Us Now Praise Famous Women* (1987), *Official Images* (1987), *Symbols of Ideal Life* (1989), and *Mind's Eye, Mind's Truth* (1989). Any of these books could have pointed the way to analytical sophistication and contributed to the historical depth of Carlebach and Provenzo's work, but none were used. Cutting-edge interpretations produced over the past decade on the primary materials that Carlebach and Provenzo deal with are missing. Ironically, the bibliography is padded with innumerable references to studies that never appear in the footnotes. Even more peculiarly, the authors indicate having researched the correspondence of the FSA and its director, Roy Emerson Stryker, but the letters written by the staff about, and in, Florida are ignored. The result is a text that robs readers of what they need to know about the people, profession, and relationships involved, especially the experiences of the photographers themselves while in Florida, and their conceptions of the state and its residents.

The treatment of the photographs is as inept as the text. The photographs were selected to show "the broad range of subjects." Having cited the acclaimed *Documentary Photography*, the authors know the importance of viewing these photographs as part of the sequence in which they were taken and the emphasis placed on reading them as part of the assignment in which they originated. And yet the FSA photographs are wrenched from their roots and used out of context. Far from providing an overview, the selection

is lopsided, with agriculture and migrant labor scenes predominating. Icons, like Marion Post Wolcott's juxtaposing a black peddle wheel taxi cab driver against a Cartier jewelry store in Palm Beach, are missing. The work that Walker Evans did while passing through the state is also ignored. Besides the brief original captions provided by the photographers, the authors have added "where appropriate, additional explanatory material." But the information falls far short of elucidating the public health, housing, labor, tourist, and other assignments the photographers worked so hard on. In many instances the information provided completely misses the point of the accompanying picture. While the authors explain, for example, the meaning of the term "cracker," the circumstances behind the picture of a farmer arguing with the local sugar ration board shows how the far-off events of World War II reached all the way to the tiny farms of the hamlet of Escambia and affected lives on a daily basis in this remote cooperative resettlement community (which is never explained). The authors even mistakenly place the Withlacoochee River Agricultural Demonstration Project in the panhandle rather than in the environs of Hernando County where it belongs.

Typical of the book's slipshod and slovenly treatment is its coverage of Gordon Parks. The authors print some photographs that Parks took in Daytona Beach, but they never consult the autobiographical musings of this fledgling black photographer, who went on to a distinguished career as a staff member of *Life* and *Vogue* magazines, to author twelve books of poetry, fiction, and nonfiction, to film director, and to receive the National Medal of Arts. His writings explain the racial environment of Daytona Beach and the hostile atmosphere under which he had to operate. The photographs and accompanying text tell us nothing about his mission to capture the defense work performed by the National Youth Administration and the leadership provided on many fronts by the director of its Negro Division, Mary McLeod Bethune. The book concludes without addressing the tremendous repercussions of the New Deal on Florida and the dramatic transformations that took place during World War II in the state.

What the University Press of Florida has brought out is a coffee table book. Even then, *Farm Security Administration Photographs of Florida* is a primer on how to butcher one of the greatest documentary photography collections in the world.

University of South Florida

ROBERT E. SNYDER

Totch: A Life in the Everglades. By Loren G. "Totch" Brown. (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 1993. x, 269 pp. Foreword by Peter Matthiessen. Preface, photographs, maps, appendices. \$29.95, cloth; \$16.95, paper.)

Totch Brown's foray into autobiography has created a remarkable document, but this work does more than chronicle the life of an individual; it also provides its readers with an intimate view of a unique environmental setting. With simple eloquence, Mr. Brown brings alive the world of south Florida's fishermen, crabbers, and alligator hunters. But the author never allows his personal sympathies to cloud his judgement, and he honestly acknowledges the environmental damage such activities have inflicted on his beloved homeland. Anyone interested in developing a deeper understanding of the complex relationship between man and the Everglades will profit from reading this book.

Mr. Brown's narrative can be neatly divided into three parts. In the first section the author combines the story of his lineage with a brief description of white settlement among the Ten Thousand Island's bays and inlets. Mr. Brown's grandfathers, C. Mel Brown and Charles G. McKinney, pioneered the southwest coast of Florida, and both of Totch's parents were born on the Everglades fringe. The author's description of his father, battling to keep his family alive during the hard times of the Great Depression, infuses this section of the narrative with vibrant eloquence that can only be supplied by real-life drama. The narrative's second section flows naturally from the first. Economic necessity forced Mr. Brown to abandon his formal education in 1934, after only seven years, and pursue a livelihood based on his environmental knowledge. During this period Totch emulated his father and employed hunting and fishing skills to support his own family.

Mr. Brown's return from World War II serves as a convenient beginning for the final section of his narrative. This portion of the author's life began on familiar ground, but larger events forced Totch to adapt new strategies. In the 1940s two events— the arrival of a hurricane and the creation of a national park— would inexorably alter Totch and his world. The national park converted much of the author's erstwhile hunting grounds into a game preserve, and hurricane-induced flooding prompted the Army Corps of Engineers to construct water works that finally tamed the Everglades. Of the two events, the loss of the Everglade's natural runoff

proved most detrimental. Mr. Brown found himself confronted with the unsavory option of either poaching gators on protected land or fishing in nutritionally depleted waters.

Like his father before him, Mr. Brown found himself confronted with an economic dilemma. During the 1930s the elder Brown used moonshine whiskey to help support his family, and, some forty years later, his son turned to smuggling marijuana to accomplish the same end. This episode will surely cause his readers varying degrees of consternation, but, to his credit, Mr. Brown— who eventually served nineteen months in federal prison for his efforts— never tries to rationalize his culpability. To these men, accustomed to making their own way, moonshining and smuggling represented viable alternatives when extreme circumstances threatened the destruction of their independence.

Totch: A Life in the Everglades, will please a wide variety of readers because Mr. Brown's autobiography offers insights on several levels. This book contains a tale of pioneer Florida, the story of a family, a recount of environmental change, and the details of hunting and fishing, all bound together by the life of one man. Totch Brown's intimate understanding of his natural setting contrasts sharply with the perspective of those Floridians who view the state as an area suitable to the unlimited development of strip malls and theme parks. Totch Brown— foibles and all— has much to tell residents of the Sunshine State.

University of Florida

DAVID MCCALLY

A Sacred Trust: Nelson Poynter and the St. Petersburg Times. By Robert N. Pierce. (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 1993. xv, 409 pp. Prologue, illustrations, photographs, appendix, sources and notes, thanks, index. \$34.95.)

Florida newspapers enjoy an unusual position in the field of journalism. There are more Pulitzer Prize-winning newspapers in Florida than any other state. From Panama City to Miami, nearly a dozen newspapers have won more than a score of Pulitzer Prizes for everything from freeing wrongly convicted inmates to the outrageous humor of Dave Barry.

One of the best of the best is the *St. Petersburg Times*, the state's second-largest daily newspaper and a fixture on every list of

top-ten newspapers nationally. Over the past three decades it has acquired a well earned reputation for its reporting and design. What makes its rise to prominence even more remarkable is that it has taken place in a town where there is not a great deal of news. Other great newspapers are found in such cities as Washington, New York, Los Angeles, and Philadelphia, where great stories tumble out routinely.

The man behind the *Times* was Nelson Poynter, who devoted his life to quality journalism at the *Times* and his well respected creation, *Congressional Quarterly*. Robert Pierce, a highly respected University of Florida journalism professor, has written a book that contains hundreds of wonderful stories about the newspaper and its proprietor, but falls far short as a biography of Poynter or a history of the newspaper.

The book contains hundreds of needless bits of minutia, while it leaves out important dates and details. Pierce identifies the model of car the wife of a *Times* executive was driving on the day Poynter died, but spends only one page discussing how Poynter obtained and was fired from jobs in Columbus and Minneapolis early in his career.

The book also leaves a number of significant questions unanswered. Pierce writes that Poynter was forced to sell the *Kokomo Dispatch* and lost the \$20,000 he had invested. Poynter then sent his father \$100,000 to save the debt-plagued *Times*. But where did Nelson Poynter get the \$100,000 if he had lost everything? In discussing a courageous trip that a black *Times* reporter took through the South in the 1960s, Pierce writes that it was a dangerous assignment "and this later proved true." But Pierce never explains how the assignment proved to be dangerous, leaving the reader to wonder what happened to the reporter.

Like many books about newspapers, this one wanders across the landscape, focusing on one individual, then another. The result is that it is difficult to follow when events are happening. For example, on page 225, Poynter acquires *The Evening Independent* from press baron Roy Thomson, but twenty pages later Thomson is again the owner. The reader will have to check carefully the footnotes to know that the second story occurred fifteen years before the first.

The book also suffers by being strangely out of date. Pierce discusses the rise of Wayne Kelly at *Congressional Quarterly* in the 1970s but fails to mention that Kelly himself was forced out in the

1980s. Elizabeth Whitney's promotion to business editor is covered, but that was nearly a decade ago, and there is no mention of the business editors who have served since.

Pierce was encouraged to write the book by editors at the *Times* and given access to company documents. But for most details about confidential workings of the newspaper, Pierce relies on stories from other publications.

Still to be answered by future studies is how a man who had a number of significant failures early in his life created such a great institution.

The Orlando Sentinel

JAMES C. CLARK

Selling the Dream: The Gulf American Corporation and the Building of Cape Coral, Florida. By David E. Dodrill. (Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 1993. ix, 311 pp. Acknowledgments, photographs, tables, maps, notes, bibliography, index. \$39.95.)

David E. Dodrill's *Selling the Dream* is the story of the development of Cape Coral, a huge suburb of Fort Myers dredged out of coastal Florida sand so as to create thousands of waterfront lots for development at modest prices. It is also the story of Leonard and Julius (Jack) Rosen of Baltimore, Maryland, who founded the Gulf American Corporation and managed it from 1957 until it was sold in 1969.

The story begins in the 1950s when Florida was wide open to developers who engaged in uncontrolled dredging and filling operations without regard to the enormous damage caused to the Florida environment. Land salesmen used high pressure and sometimes misleading sales practices to induce people to buy lots on the installment plan. Leonard and Jack Rosen were first of all salesmen who had worked in carnivals before changing to market cosmetics. Believing that they could sell anything and that sales were the key to development, they employed a huge sales force which compiled lists of prospects from all over the nation and contacted them by telephone and direct mail. These prospects were treated to cocktail parties and dinners at which sales were made on the spot. The Rosens purchased an airline whose primary function was to fly potential buyers to the construction site. Planes and helicopters were available for aerial inspection.

Construction of streets and amenities as well as some homes progressed accordingly, but this was also a sales technique since prospects were more likely to buy if they saw progress being made. The firm expanded far beyond Cape Coral with its Golden Gates Estates, River Ranch Acres, and Remuda Ranch Grants, parts of which were too low for development.

Cape Coral became a reality, and most purchasers were pleased by the new community that arose from the Florida sand. But the high pressure sales tactics and misrepresentations brought complaints. The administration of Governor Claude Kirk, partially because of growing concern about the environment and partially because of complaints from dissatisfied purchasers, launched a campaign to bring Gulf American to account and, by extension, begin controlling companies and the sales practices that were reflecting adversely on the state. A mighty struggle ensued, but the Rosens were eventually obliged to sell out. The enterprise ultimately failed because it was unable to maintain a viable volume of sales without the high-pressure tactics that had become unacceptable.

In the long run the Rosens were applauded for making available homes in a desirable Florida setting to retirees at affordable prices. But, in the process, they obliged the state to rein in those practices that were doing so much damage to its environment as well as to its national reputation.

This is a good story about an important subject. It seems well researched and relatively well written. But it is organized in a topical fashion necessitating an irritating amount of repetition. Given the subject matter, that was perhaps unavoidable. In any event, it is a good book and a worthy contribution to modern Florida history.

University of Central Florida

JERRELL H. SHOFNER

The Gulf of Mexico: A Treasury of Resources in the American Mediterranean. By Robert H. Gore. (Sarasota: Pineapple Press, 1992. 384 pp. Acknowledgments, preface, introduction, prologue, figures, photographs, tables, epilogue, footnotes, glossary, suggestions for further readings, index, color plate index. \$24.95.)

Robert Gore's objective is to bring the nonspecialist into the circle of knowledge bearing on the Gulf of Mexico and those

shorelines that define it. It is an objective that he has met beautifully, using a style free from the conventions of scientific writing. Gore brings drama to the Gulf at scales varying from sometimes troublesome phytoplankton to horrifying, exploding oil tankers. He offers the layperson a sourcebook to guide informed decision making.

The weakest portion of Gore's book is Part One, the historical overview. At least three aspects exhibit room for improvement. First, the work lacks temporal depth. A historical overview that begins with the arrival of the Spanish suggests a serious Euro-American bias. Native Americans had appreciated the Gulfs natural bounty for thousands of years prior to the sixteenth century. In the ancient garbage piles left by these early residents are clues not only to a human history but also to an environmental one. Present-day human residents have much to learn from this past. Second, the book lacks citations of recent research. In Gore's defense much of the current thought on the topics he writes about have only recently been published. Nonetheless, judging from his acknowledgments, he made no contact with professionals doing research in these topics. The result is an overview flawed with inaccuracies. For example, the Calusa were primarily fisherfolk, not "hunter-gatherers"; there is no evidence that they ever grew maize, beans, or tobacco; there is no evidence for fortified Calusa villages; there is no evidence that the Calusa tattooed themselves; and they used shell, not stone, for tools (pp. 30-31). Third, the author uses value judgements. However unintentional (Gore is clearly sympathetic toward the once-populous Native Americans), the use of language such as "primitive," "totally naked," "the gentle Tainos," is reminiscent of the "noble savage" mentality and seems anachronistic.

In Part Two (Gulf's physical characteristics), Gore misses an opportunity to take the long-term perspective one step further. His synopsis of "sea-level rise" is incomplete without consideration of the alternative school of thought— that mean sea level in the Gulf and elsewhere has fluctuated both below and above present-day levels in recent Holocene history. Although short, Part Three (physiography of continental shelf) goes far toward explicating the physiographic variation that exists around and in the Gulf. Part Four (biology) is the strongest portion of the book. Here, Gore excels in communicating the interconnectivity of all the Gulfs ecosystems and their inseparable relationship with interior

lands as far away as Montana. Enlightening overviews of the Gulf's industries are presented in Part Five. I was stunned to see on pages 260-61, however, that the author believes "archaeological diving, and exploring for lost treasure and artifacts" to be an acceptable form of public recreation! It is exactly this kind of message that encourages people to destroy scientifically and historically important cultural resources.

Having brought to the reader a basic understanding of the complex nature of the Gulf, Gore concludes the book in Part Six (anthropogenic pollution). Here, present-day issues of Gulf pollution now can be viewed in their proper context. Despite the shortcomings, Gore generally succeeds in presenting the Gulf at a human scale, one that we all recognize. Gore is to be applauded for his efforts in bringing this inviting story to the shopping malls of North America. I look forward to an even better second edition, one that treats archaeological/historical resources with the same respect given environmental ones.

Florida Museum of Natural History

KAREN J. WALKER

The Founders of America: How Indians discovered the land, pioneered in it, and created great classical civilizations; how they were plunged into a Dark Age by invasion and conquest; and how they are now reviving. By Francis Jennings. (New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 1993. 457 pp. Introduction, acknowledgments, illustrations, maps, chronology, notes, bibliography, index. \$27.50.)

There is hardly any necessity for the reviewer to summarize the intended contents and point of view of this book, for both are clear in the title. Designed to expose a general audience to the history of North America's last twelve thousand years as told from an Amerindian viewpoint, it nevertheless lacks the kind of unified story line that would capture that audience. In some ways that is just as well, because the story it does tell is confused and often just plain wrong.

Francis Jennings is the learned author of many books and articles on Amerindians, his area of expertise being particularly the Iroquois League. Here, however, in attempting to tell the long pre-European history of the whole of the Americas, he is very much out of his depth with disciplines and sources with which he

is unfamiliar, and he exhibits an unfortunate tendency to judge the value of a research position by how it fits his own view of the facts.

That is not to say that there is nothing here that needs to be said. The title is indeed the heart of what Jennings is trying to say: that Indians were the original discoverers, pioneers, and builders of civilizations in the Americas, and, in spite of the terrible destruction wrought by European invasion, they are still here and indeed on the rebound. And Jennings is right to believe that this story still needs telling.

Jennings is voluble in his attacks on the biased thinking of his *bete noir*, Frederick Jackson Turner, whose hypothesis that the frontier determined American character Jennings exposes for its Eurocentric narrowness of vision. Yet although he is steadfast in his opposition to the notion of the "transit of civilization" from Europe to the Americas, he proposes a similar "transit" of civilization from Mexico to the Mississippi Valley in the shape of a Toltec migration, thereby unintentionally denigrating the achievements of North American Indians as surely as did the "moundbuilder" myth makers of the nineteenth century.

Jennings clearly believes that the pinnacle of civilized life is a classical multileveled "civilization" based on an agricultural regime (a conviction worthy of considerable discussion in itself); that agriculture only had one hearth in the Americas, Mexico, and for no clearly articulated reason he also concludes that only through the actual political hegemony of migrant Toltecs could agriculture have been spread to North America. Yet though this version of the development of Mississippian culture is central to his bringing "civilization" to North America, Jennings's strongest support for this position is Antoine Simon Le Page du Pratz's questionable interpretation of the eighteenth-century Natchez Indian origin myth, not even an Indian claim. It goes completely against the painstaking archaeological reconstructions of the last fifty years, which has tended to a position that the great Mississippian cultures of medieval North America were indigenous developments going back much further than Jennings dates his Toltec migration.

This kind of credulity is unfortunate, but it is easy to see where it comes from: a lack of understanding of archaeology and the weighing of archaeological evidence. There is also a considerable lack of acquaintance with modern anthropological theory about social organization and a good deal of confusion about the degree

of disruption that took place, particularly in the Southeast, as a result of early European contact. Jennings is most at home when he gets to the eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Iroquois. He also has some interesting things to say about what he considers the mistaken claim that Amerindian political forms influenced the American articulation of liberal democracy, but the rest of the book is so disorganized and so marred by error that these useful observations are nearly swamped.

Mississippi Department of Archives and History PATRICIA GALLOWAY

A History of French Louisiana, Volume Two: Years of Transition. 1715-1717. By Marcel Giraud. Translated by Brian Pearce. (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1993. xi, 213 pp. Introduction, abbreviations, maps, bibliography, index. \$30.00.)

Years of Transition, 1715-1717, volume II of Marcel Giraud's five-volume *A History of French Louisiana*, appears nineteen years after the translation of volume I. It was originally published in French in 1958. In two hundred pages of text Giraud covers a scant two years in the history of the colony, from the death of Louis XIV to the end of Crozat's commercial monopoly.

Louisiana, as we generally think of it today, did not then exist. While there were some settlers in the New Orleans area, especially along Bayou St. John, the main settlements were at Mobile and Dauphin Island. Both were not prospering and were poorly located for controlling the Mississippi River and the Mississippi Valley. Their harbors were shallow, and the Gulf soil was inadequate for agriculture. These factors would lay the foundation for a new colonial capital on the Mississippi and away from the Gulf coast.

The volume continues with the Crozat trade monopoly, which began in 1712. The Council of the Navy exercised control for the French government. The two years covered show how inadequately Crozat and the crown furthered the colony's development; both lacked needed financial resources. Moreover, Crozat wanted to make money any way he could, even if it meant exploiting the handful of miserable settlers who were then present.

Plans rather than accomplishments mark this brief era. Schemes existed for increasing defenses, settlers, and communications. The French thought of extending the size of Louisiana through encroachment into Spanish-held or claimed lands. There was a desire, too, to increase commerce with the Spaniards, but trade was erratic. The wish to improve conditions for the settlers remained unfulfilled because it meant spending money. Officials cherished the belief that Louisiana had great potential, but capital for investment was scant.

Because of this, food shortages continued, merchandise was scarce and expensive, trade goods were in short supply, and payment of salaries was always in arrears. The few soldiers present were poorly sheltered, fed, and paid. Moreover, few people expressed an interest in emigrating to Louisiana, and those who went were ill-equipped to meet the formidable challenges they encountered. In the end Crozat gave up his trade monopoly.

Despite Louisiana's primitive conditions and tiny population, a social hierarchy was emerging in the wilderness. The class-consciousness of the privileged few, top officials and military officers, dictated society. It was founded on rank and birth inasmuch as the colony possessed little wealth.

Giraud based his study on French archival documents, and their quality is unquestioned. There is, however, the impression through much of the book that Louisiana is being seen from France. Only in the later chapters is there a feeling of being in the colony and experiencing the difficulties settlers endured. Do not look for Crozat's first name (Antoine) anywhere in the book; it is not there, not even in the index. Nor will anyone find the Superior Council in the text or index unless you look for *Conseil Supérieur*. It is surprising that the term was not translated, especially since English-language studies invariably refer to it as the Superior Council.

The appearance of Giraud's second volume in English is a welcome addition to the history of French Louisiana. It makes available to an English-reading public an alternative to the tired Louisiana histories of Martin, Gayarré, and Fortier. It provides detailed explanations of conditions in the colony in the era prior to the founding of New Orleans. No one who studies the Mississippi Valley in the eighteenth century can ignore it.

Fort Lewis College

GILBERT C. DIN, emeritus

An Anxious Pursuit: Agricultural Innovation and Modernity in the Lower South, 1730-1815. By Joyce E. Chaplin. (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1993. xiv, 411 pp. Preface, illustrations, maps, tables, abbreviations, epilogue, statistical method, bibliography, index. \$45.00.)

This is an excellent book and one that is a strong addition to the intellectual and cultural history of the eighteenth-century South. Professor Chaplin describes and interprets the contradictions and conflict in thought and action among Southerners in South Carolina, Georgia, and East Florida as they sought to establish their place in an expanding economy between about 1730 and 1815.

The author makes clear that southern planters in the lower South believed in progress and modern improvements. In that sense they were part of the emerging modernization. In rice production, for instance, planters adopted water wheels and pumps to control the water supply and also developed tidal irrigation. They introduced improved milling machinery and showed a lively interest in science and better farming practices. Overall, planters greatly increased their efficiency and productivity.

As settlers occupied the upcountry they, too, wanted to become a part of the growing market economy. In time cotton, which was first raised for home consumption, permitted upcountry farmers and planters to become successful commercial producers. They favored progress in the form of better machines, improved plant breeds, and other traits and characteristics of modernization.

While the author shows that planters and farmers in the lower South had a modern, progressive, capitalist outlook, they were flexible in making adjustments to changed economic conditions. During the 1730s the Seven Years War, and the American Revolutionary War, planters turned to self-sufficiency to meet such war-time problems as blockades and loss of markets. But after these crises ended, they returned to the market economy and looked to further improvements through science and technology.

Planters may have held modern views on production and marketing, but their position on human bondage was in sharp conflict with some ideas associated with modernization. At a time when there was growing emphasis on individual freedom, their continued commitment to slavery was traditional and backward looking.

In that regard planters chose stability over progress and modernization. They refused to adopt this aspect of modernization which might lead to social disruption and the loss of ancient values. The author argues that after 1815 the South chose commercial agriculture and slave labor over industrialization and free labor as its future direction.

Professor Chaplin has done an excellent job of looking at the mind of lower South planters over nearly a century and weaving their thoughts and actions through a maze of uncertainties and contradictions. She has done a prodigious amount of research in both foreign and American archives as well as in a host of other basic sources. The footnotes are almost intimidating. The book is beautifully written, but the nature of the subject does not lend it to light or easy reading. It is a book that the reader must think about seriously. Students of southern history, and colonial, intellectual, and social historians will find *An Anxious Pursuit* a stimulating and challenging book.

University of Georgia

GILBERT C. FITE, emeritus

A Grand Army of Black Men: Letters From African-American Soldiers in the Union Army, 1861-1865. Edited by Edwin S. Redkey. (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1992. xix, 302 pp. Preface, acknowledgments, abbreviations, index. \$49.95, cloth; \$16.95, paper.)

During the Civil War it was a common practice for soldiers to spend leisure hours in camp by writing letters to their families, friends, and local newspapers. Historians have long made use of soldiers' personal letters to glean information on battles, army life, and other topics. The tens of thousands of soldier letters published in newspapers have not been used to the same extent. Today these letters constitute one of the two least utilized major sources for the study of the war (the other consists of material in the National Archives).

In *A Grand Army of Black Men* Edwin Redkey provides 129 letters written to newspapers by blacks who served in the United States Army or Navy during the war. Many of the letters are printed only in part. About three-fifths of them are from the *Christian*

Recorder, the official organ of the African Methodist Episcopal Church published in Philadelphia. Another fifth of the letters appeared in the *Weekly Anglo-African* of New York. (The "Anglo," Redkey suspects, was the major voice of the black soldiers, but only a few issues survive.) The remaining letters appeared in the *Pine and Palm* (Boston) and in such journals as *The Liberator*, the Athens [OH] *Messenger*, and the Philadelphia *Press*.

Only a half dozen or so of these letters were from officers (including chaplains and doctors). Many were written by noncommissioned officers, the rest by privates. A few correspondents used a nom de plume, and their real names and grades are unknown. Some of the letters were written after the war ended and reflect the vicissitudes of the early Reconstruction period. Most of the letters were from men in the United States Colored Troops units, some from members of such famous outfits as the 54th and 55th Massachusetts regiments, and some from blacks serving in "white" regiments. Most were written by northern blacks who were more likely to be literate than were their fellows from the South. Five were from men in the navy.

Redkey has grouped some of the letters by the geographical area from which they were written, others by the topics with which they dealt. This latter group included such subjects as "Occupation Duty," "The Struggle for Equal Pay," and "Racism in the Army." Letters from correspondents in white regiments and in the navy are in separate chapters.

The material in *A Grand Army of Black Men* is of considerable value on several counts. For one thing the letters add to our store of knowledge about the military side of the 1860s—camp life, the black units, battles and campaigns. For another they provide useful descriptions of some of the places where the writers served. Seventeen of the letters are from Florida with most coming from the Jacksonville and Pensacola areas; one is from Gainesville.

Most readers will probably have a greater interest in the insights these documents provide into the minds of nineteenth-century black Americans and their attitudes about such topics as slavery, racism, colonization, and the right to vote. Readers must remember, however, that these letters were written for publication. For that reason they should be used with the caution appropriate for all material intended for public consumption.

The book's greatest weakness is its index. Redkey has indexed proper nouns, but he has not included military units or the many

topics on which the writers expressed their opinions. Comments on troop morale, slavery, education, and voting, for example, run through many of the letters, but there is no entry for any of these topics. There are some interesting remarks by blacks about “the ignorant Irish” and the “drunken Irish” (pp. 210, 268) that are not indexed under “Immigrants, black attitudes about” or “Irish, prejudice by blacks toward.” In any future edition Redkey should expand the index to include the topics about which black soldiers expressed their thoughts.

Decatur, GA

RICHARD M. MCMURRY

Sherman: A Soldier's Passion For Order. By John F. Marszalek. (New York: Free Press, 1992. xvi, 635 pp. Acknowledgments, prologue, photographs, notes, bibliography, index. \$29.95.)

Does the world of American historiography really need another biography of William Tecumseh Sherman? Is there still room to write anything fresh about the War Between the States? Can the hoary Sherman-Grant relationship actually be reassessed, or the Hood and Johnston versus Sherman contest bear yet another evaluation? Professor Marszalek obviously thinks so, and the present reader, after wading through this massive work, must agree with him. In short, this is a volume with something to say, even though it takes a long time to say it. Frequently the reader wishes for a stiff editor who might impose discipline on Marszalek, just as the author finds the search for order and stability to be the key to Sherman's personality and his apparently inconsistent behavior. The fight to complete the book is, however, well worth it; Marszalek has made his mark. *Sherman* acts as a successful counter to Albert Castel's *Decision in the West*, which sees this terror of the Confederacy as anything but that. Sherman was, claims Castel, afraid of direct military confrontation, particularly after Shiloh and Kennesaw Mountain. Instead of taking as his aim the absolute destruction of Hood's army, Sherman avoided serious confrontation with Confederate forces and, in fact, simply “did not like to fight.” Marszalek vigorously disagrees with this view.

Actually, Marszalek emphasizes Sherman's preference for strategy, the flanking maneuver, and most particularly destroying

the Confederacy's will to continue the war by ravaging the countryside between Atlanta and Savannah, and Savannah and the Bennett house in North Carolina where an exhausted Johnston finally surrendered. Sherman had no desire, writes Marszalek, to spill blood unnecessarily; his notion was to kill the Confederacy, which threatened the national order, by destroying property and the South's ability to continue the struggle. Sherman prompted psychological war against civilians; he "hated the idea" of killing for its own sake. His style of leadership was entirely different from Grant's, but the two men were close friends and each appreciated the other's accomplishments (pp. 309-10). In spite of his unusual ideas, Sherman was still an advocate of total war, a lesson he learned during the Meridian and Mississippi campaigns. He disliked Negroes and respected slavery as part of the national order. Although an advocate of a "hard war," he backed the idea of a "soft peace" (p. 359), a position that saw him ally with Andrew Johnson and become estranged from Edwin Stanton and even from Grant. In the postwar world he was outspoken in his opposition to black enfranchisement, and Marszalek proves to this reviewer's satisfaction that Sherman did indeed use the phrase most often ascribed to him, "War is hell," as well as many similar remarks concerning warfare that are just as short and pithy.

Sherman's life tended to be personally chaotic. As a child he was taken into the home of Thomas Ewing, a successful Ohio businessman and politician, when his own family disintegrated following the death of his improvident father. "Cump," as Sherman was sometimes called, ultimately married Ellen Ewing, his foster sister, who preferred to stay at home with her parents rather than follow Sherman to California, Florida, or Louisiana. For most of his life Sherman struggled for acceptance from the entire Ewing household, and Marszalek is uncertain that he ever really secured it. Ellen's powerful Catholicism stood between the two, and although Sherman was baptized in this faith, he never practiced it, much to his wife's chagrin. On his deathbed in 1891 his family saw to it that the unconscious Sherman was given the sacrament of Extreme Unction. Earlier, one of Sherman's sons had become a member of the Jesuit order, against his father's wishes.

Politically, Sherman could be depended upon to say the wrong thing at the wrong time, a pattern that kept him in hot water during most of the postwar years. He was, at heart, astonishingly naive about public affairs; his first love was the army and the

order it brought to his life— an order he was never able fully to establish in his own home.

Marszalek's picture of this interesting man is sympathetic, but he is not unaware of Sherman's flaws. He is seen as a legitimate hero of the Union, to be viewed on the same military level with Grant, if not higher. Marszalek's research is impressive, and although his style limps at times, the book is refreshingly free of the tired phrases of political correctness. For this "warts and all" study John Marszalek is due the thanks of the history profession and the general public. He has successfully transcended the usual predictable writing on military figures in the Civil War. Marszalek can be justifiably proud of this achievement.

University of Georgia

PHINIZY SPALDING

Financial Failure and Confederate Defeat. By Douglas B. Ball. (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1991. xi, 329 pp. Foreword, acknowledgments, introduction, tables, appendices, bibliography, index. \$29.95.)

For all the ink spilled discussing strategy and tactics in the Civil War, all the reinterpretations of Jeff Davis's statescraft, of Grant's sweeping vision, of Lee's attachment to Virginia, there has been little scholarly work devoted to the more mundane issues of logistics. The mobilization of food, clothing, and most of all money has gotten as little attention from scholars as it received in the first months of the Confederacy. That historical lacuna, at least for the Confederate treasury, has been answered by Douglas Ball's monograph, a sweeping critique of its secretary Christopher Memminger.

The book succeeds in synthesizing a scattered collection of primary sources into an interesting and coherent counterfactual argument. Memminger, according to Ball, should have immediately forced the independently managed banks of the South to stop specie (coin) payments to other banks and to lend their specie to the Confederacy in exchange for Confederate bonds. With this coin, mixed with Confederate bonds, they should have bought up southern cotton for export and instituted an ad valorem tax. Meanwhile in Europe a twenty-year bridge loan would

provide quick capital while the cotton worked its way through the Union blockades. This would have let the war last longer and forced the Union to provide better terms. Ball asserts that none of these suggestions were outside the reckoning of the Confederate cabinet, though Memminger appears to have blocked their consideration.

As counterfactual history goes, Ball does a fair job. He makes an effort to discuss the parameters of debate in the antebellum South on finance and credit. He also makes valiant attempts to quantify the fiscal requirements of the Confederacy, the quantity of specie available in the region, the quantity of cotton available for sale, and the yield on a southern tax infrastructure.

Still, one boggles at the prospect of such a centralizing project in the hands of the self-professed defenders of states' rights. Could the treasury have replaced all the cotton factors in the South with an administrative structure of local agents? Who would have graded all that cotton? Could Confederate procurement and financing have really been centralized in London? What would Toombs or Rhett have said about forcing state-controlled banks to suspend specie payments? To be fair, Ball sidesteps none of these issues, but I remain somewhat unconvinced.

Ball's failure to convince may have something to do with his constant, rhetorical attacks on Memminger's ideas without much quoting of him or analyzing of his position, Ball delivers more slams per sitting than Shaquille O'Neal! We are told that Memminger had a "Southern predilection for legalistic abstractions," that he had a tendency to "exalt doctrine while ignoring reality," and that Ball's counterfactual policy would have suggested itself had Memminger "dispense[d] with inconvenient legalisms" and if the Confederacy "possessed anything approaching a realistic vision of its possible future." More generally, Ball's first chapter, which considers antebellum thought on issues of finance and economy, does so without the secondary sources of the past twenty-five years. Absent from his discussion are the works of Drew Gilpin Faust, Peter Temin, or Robert Sharkey. His preference for primary sources is laudable but not when he unquestioningly equates southern thought with abstraction (which Faust and many others contradict) and Jacksonianism with hard money (which Temin, et. al. revise).

Finally, the audience for the book is somewhat specialized. Ball assumes that his readers remember the major events in Con-

federate finance, like the Erlanger loan, and that they are well acquainted with theories of monetary policy, like the relationship between the velocity of currency movement and purchasing power. Nevertheless, the research is impressive and the range encyclopedic. Students of Confederate policy will find it incisive and challenging.

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

SCOTT R. NELSON

The Era of Good Stealings. By Mark Wahlgren Summers. (New York: Oxford University Press, 1993. xiv, 390 pp. Preface, illustrations, epilogue and coda, notes, index. \$49.95.)

In his latest book about political corruption during the nineteenth century, Mark Summers has again demonstrated his investigative skills. Everyone interested in the Reconstruction period will want to read this important book. But those unfamiliar with his work may miss it because of the imprecise title. The same title could have been used for a book about the 1830s, 1850s, 1920s, and 1980s. Indeed, Summers's 1987 book, *The Plundering Generation: Corruption and the Crisis of the Union, 1849-1861*, deals with corruption during the 1850s.

In this perceptive volume Summers presents a balanced account of a notorious era. Referring to Nicholas Biddle's favors, and loans to Daniel Webster and Henry Clay in the 1830s he underscores that influence peddling has had a long history in the American political system. The tremendous increase in government spending during the Civil War facilitated a new wave of corruption. At the same time, the end of slavery invigorated the reform movement, as America seemed to be reborn. Crushing the Confederacy and freeing the slaves proved to many that expansion of the national government was the most effective way to enforce reform. And the opportunities for plunder made reformers of those who were out of power. Even Republican reformers like Thomas Nast and the *New York Times* had a partisan reason for toppling the Democratic Tweed Ring.

The description of vote-buying allegations swirling around the impeachment trial of Andrew Johnson makes an eyeopening read. Secretary of State William H. Seward and others formed a

“ways and means committee” to raise \$165,000 which was used to procure the president’s one-vote acquittal. What role did Thurlow Weed, the “King of the Lobby,” the Whiskey Ring, Custom House Ring, and the Indian Ring play in the sordid affair? Summers concludes that Johnson’s acquittal was not ensured by illegal means but rather by presidential patronage and political deals. Nevertheless, the “corruption issue” became prominent after the impeachment trial, and the election of Ulysses S. Grant seemed to signal the “dawn of reform.”

Summers takes a fresh look at the scandals of the Grant administration and why the great general was such a “great disappointment.” As in his 1984 book, *Railroads, Reconstruction, and the Gospel of Prosperity: Aid under the Radical Republicans, 1865-1877*, he recounts the shenanigans between railroad promoters and politicians. Yet he again concludes that the scandals, including the Credit Mobilier fiasco, “were exaggerated, almost beyond recognition,” especially by partisan newspaper reporters.

This book is well written and of general interest, but students of Florida history will find that it contains far less about the state than his 1984 work. Economic and business historians will also discover that it suffers from a lack of primary financial and legal records. Although Summers relied on an impressive number of manuscript collections, the papers of public figures usually hold sanitized financial records because incriminating evidence has been destroyed. No doubt private collections like Jay Cooke’s papers include damaging letters; however, they still present an incomplete financial picture.

Summers did not use the records of the comptroller of the currency, which would have revealed the chicanery among bankers and their political friends. With the establishment of the national banking system in 1863, examiners from the office of the comptroller of the currency began to document questionable loans and transactions of national banks. A review of the regulatory records of the thirty-five national banks that failed between 1865 and 1874 would have disclosed those deals and the cozy relationships between Comptroller of the Currency Hiland R. Hulburd and the officers, directors, and stockholders of the defunct banks.

Summers also ignored bankruptcy and other case files of the U.S. District Courts. An analysis of the bankruptcy and litigation records of railroads and other corporations would have allowed

him to follow the paper trail of the promoters, politicians, and lobbyists. Until the financial and legal records are studied, the story of corruption during Reconstruction will remain only partially told.

Florida State University

RAYMOND B. VICKERS

Witness for Freedom: African American Voices on Race, Slavery, and Emancipation. Edited by C. Peter Ripley. (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1993. xxiv, 306 pp. Illustrations, acknowledgments, editorial statement, chronology, introduction, glossary, bibliographical essay, index. \$29.95.)

Witness for Freedom is a collection of documents from the Black Abolitionist Papers Project which lays out in rich detail the full range of African American life and culture in America during the antebellum period. This work affords a sweeping perspective that combines black concerns about freedom with daily experiences, from black support of gradualist emancipation to concerns about Reconstruction.

Editor C. Peter Ripley's selections insightfully convey how African American views on abolition developed. In 1828 a speech by abolitionist David Walker advocated cooperation with white abolitionists, a view shared by many black advocates for freedom. By the 1840s and 1850s disillusionment with moral reform and moral suasion, the touchstones of abolition favored by whites, replaced black support of gradual emancipation with demands for immediate emancipation. A growing militancy convinced free blacks that abolition must be driven by the African American community. One letter defined the relationship between white and black abolitionists: "They are our allies— OURS is the battle" (p. 184). Realizing the fight could not be won by relying on whites or moral suasion, many black leaders insisted, "Physical and political efforts are the only methods left for us to adopt." Demands for political power became part of the antislavery crusade. Some black leaders urged support of a Liberty party free from political compromise, while others favored working within the Republican party. Calls for physical resistance became more powerful with the Fugitive Slave Law's passage, to which Frederick Douglass offered a physical rem-

edy: "A good revolver, a steady hand, and a determination to shoot down any man attempting to kidnap" (p. 184).

As black efforts and thought grew steadily independent and militant, so too did the organizations that kept black abolition strong and maturing. Antislavery societies helped to fund the African American press. *Freedom's Journal*, the *Weekly Anglo-African*, and others offered a forum for abolitionist information and developed an African American identity that preserved black culture and symbolized an example of self-reliance and ability. Professional abolitionists inspired the black community, placed the antislavery message before the largest number of people, and combatted racial stereotypes. Former slaves recounting the cruelty of slavery made lectures successful tools against proslavery arguments.

Black abolitionists' words and ideas also reveal how much insight a people who knew they were only partly free possessed. Frustration with white leadership and prejudice against blacks in the abolition movement prompted Samuel Cornish, editor of the *Colored American*, to recognize that "Prejudice against color, after all, is the test question" in determining the outcome of the antislavery fight. Free blacks also wrote and lectured on the federal government's ironic welcoming of refugees from abroad while passing the Fugitive Slave Law. Philadelphia blacks, gathered in 1850, condemned the "hypocrisy which welcomes to our shores the refugees from Austrian tyranny, and at the same time would send the refugees from American Slavery back to a doom, compared with which, Austrian tyranny is mercy" (p. 181). Harsher accusations came in 1857 from Philadelphia businessman Robert Purvis who forcefully stated, "I assert that the Constitution is fitting and befitting those who made it— slaveholders and their abettors" (p. 177).

These are rare glimpses into the minds and hearts of black Americans during a time of great change and halting progress. A thoughtful introductory overview, a table of chronology, and a glossary of terms provide a perfect accompaniment for anyone studying racial relations during the antebellum era.

Witness for Freedom is a small portion of the treasure in the Black Abolitionist Papers Project. The voices within chronicle the hopes and frustrations of working toward freedom, a journey with an indelible imprint on African American history.

Tallahassee, FL

KENT KASTER II

Under Their Own Vine and Fig Tree: The African-American Church in the South, 1865-1900. By William E. Montgomery. (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1993. xiii, 358 pp. Preface, illustrations, epilogue, index. \$29.95.)

In *Under Their Own Vine and Fig Tree*, William E. Montgomery traces the development of the African-American church in the South from the end of the Civil War to the beginning of the twentieth century, although he devotes far less attention to the latter years of that period than he does to those of Reconstruction.

Montgomery locates the roots of the post-Civil War church in the independent black denominations of the North and in the "invisible institution," or informal church, of the slave community. He then describes efforts of the northern denominations' missionaries who came South during and after the Civil War but concludes that the freed people themselves, especially former slave preachers, were more important in establishing African-American churches in the Reconstruction South. The Methodist and Baptist congregations they founded symbolized freedom and offered their members continuity with their African and slave pasts.

Strongly influenced by recent scholarship on African cultural survivals within slave society, Montgomery frequently finds evidence of African influence on postwar practices. He shows how these influences and the freed people's situation fostered a distinctive theology, worship, and role for the church in society, one that was at once sacred and secular. Black churches provided various community services, including social welfare and education, and they played an important role in politics. During Reconstruction the many ministers who became politicians often advocated conservative policies and embraced reconciliation with whites. After Reconstruction, Montgomery concludes, most, though certainly not all, African-American ministers adopted an integrationist rather than a nationalist stance.

Montgomery never really addresses the seeming paradox that a church so rooted in African and separatist traditions so often adopted conservative and integrationist positions. He mentions but slights the importance of the slaves' antebellum experience in white churches. In similar fashion he acknowledges that some blacks felt forced out of these congregations by white racists' behavior after the war, but he stresses that blacks voluntarily chose to leave as an affirmation of their own traditions. He may well be

correct in his emphasis. Perhaps the ambiguity between separatist origins and conservative policies reflected only the persistence of an antirevolutionary strain within slave religion that historian Eugene D. Genovese has so ably explored. But what if whites' discriminatory treatment played a larger role in causing blacks to withdraw from white churches than Montgomery suggests? If the formation of black churches involved a not all together welcome abandonment of a common religious and institutional heritage rather than just an affirmation of a distinctive African-American faith, then continued conservatism and an integrationist approach might seem less paradoxical. In any case Montgomery's account would have benefitted from further exploration of the religious tradition whites and blacks shared. He never cites Kenneth K. Bailey's articles on this issue— nor for that matter books by James M. Washington and Edward L. Wheeler that discuss other aspects of his topic.

Despite these failings, *Under Their Own Vine and Fig Tree* remains a useful and important book. Montgomery skillfully incorporates much other recent scholarship on African-American culture and politics with evidence from a wide variety of primary sources in order to draw some important conclusions about the African-American church. He notes, for example, the significant role of women within black churches even as he acknowledges continued male domination of the institution. He repeatedly reminds readers that the African-American church was never monolithic and in several places carefully exposes some of its divisions. But most important, Montgomery provides exactly what he promises, an "exploratory rather than definitive" history of a central institution within the South's African-American community (p. xii). It provides a solid introduction to a most important topic, one not available in any other single book.

Louisiana State University

GAINES M. FOSTER

Booker T. Washington and the Adult Education Movement. By Virginia Lantz Denton. (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 1993. xiv, 264 pp. Preface, illustrations, afterword, notes, selected bibliography, index. \$34.95.)

Though the white and colored signs have disappeared from the southern landscape, frequently an intellectual segregation sep-

arates the black experience out of the American experience. For example, often there is black history and then there is history— a segregation sometimes contributing to black isolation. As W. E. B. DuBois brilliantly explained, African Americans have been characterized by a “double consciousness.” As such, they have been both out of the mainstream, struggling against America’s oppression, and concurrently they have advanced America, usually along paths parallel to those of whites. Obviously, their experience warrants integration into standard academic disciplines.

The primary objective of Virginia Lantz Denton’s *Booker T. Washington and the Adult Education Movement* is to lift the legendary Tuskegee educator to his rightful place within the field of adult education. Denton defines this field as including “all the experiences of mature men and women in which new skills, knowledge, values, and interests are enhanced, combining the various processes of social change, culture, production, politics, and service.” Her study of Washington, the great exemplar of self-help and vocational education, was prompted by his virtual absence from the literature of adult education, even though Tuskegee Institute originated in educating mostly adults.

In centering Washington in adult education, Denton devotes about two-fifths of the text to the educational status of blacks in slavery and early freedom and the personal odyssey of Washington in the 1856-1881 period as grounding and grooming for his subsequent roles in adult education. She then delineates his plethora of initiatives in this area, commencing with his 1881 establishment of Tuskegee Institute in rural Alabama. Discussed particularly within the perspective of “Social Change Through Extension: Taking Adult Education to the Masses,” these initiatives embraced night school and bible school; a steady rhythm of Negro conferences; traveling demonstrations to farmers; local visits and state tours; transforming renters into land owners; funnelling northern philanthropy into all levels of black education; the national programs of his National Negro Business League, National Negro Health Week, and the National Urban League; and finally, his international influence, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Having surveyed these activities, Denton evaluates them and their originator via her chapter “Private Politics, Public Perceptions, and Pioneer Precedents.” Buttressed by Gunnar Myrdal’s *An American Dilemma*, she concludes that Washington “effected significant change in every area of adult life.” Moreover, she finds his

leadership relevant to the present. Moving on, she makes her most significant Washington evaluation within the context of the adult education discipline. For example, she demonstrates how he fits into four popular theoretical approaches: andragogy (the art of teaching adults), humanism, developmentalism, and behaviorism; and she asserts that his vigorous pursuit of the American Creed, or democratization, was in accord with the unifying idea that has animated the adult education movement.

Through this well-documented and well-written study, Denton successfully integrates Booker T. Washington into the adult education movement. Her interpretation could have benefitted, however, from greater connections between Washington and his era's general currents in adult education such as university extension services. Also, a rounded consideration of his adult and nonadult educational work would have brought his leadership into sharper focus. Moreover, one should be beware of Denton's surprising attitude towards the historically controversial Washington. Just as Pontius Pilate declared in relation to Jesus, "I have found no fault in this man," Denton does likewise with Washington. Conceding no ground, she castigates his chief critics from one end of this century to the other. Though her hero was indeed a titan, no mortal can be perfect—especially one pressed on every side by racial considerations in a racist society.

Alabama State University

Elaine M. Smith

James Branch Cabell and Richmond-in-Virginia. By Edgar MacDonald. (Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 1993. xxiv, 373 pp. Acknowledgments, introduction, chronology, photographs, bibliographical notes, works cited, index. \$39.95.)

In the acknowledgments to his literary biography of Cabell, Edgar MacDonald proposes "to present [Cabell] as he was seen by his contemporaries and as he saw himself in his writings. . . . He was pretty much like my father, a quiet man who kept most of his opinions to himself in light of my mother's own flow of talk" (p. ix). A revealing statement, it sheds light, perhaps, on MacDonald's interesting blend of sympathy and not-always-concealed irritation in his portrait of the Richmond writer.

James Branch Cabell and Richmond-in-Virginia, as its title indicates, is an intriguing and sometimes frustrating portrait of a man and his place. MacDonald gives an insightful description for the uninitiated: "Despite its mythology, Richmond grew out of a polyglot culture, a nexus between north and south, east and west. Its head was given to an industrial north, its heart to an agrarian south. Down the James it looked eastward to a European homeland; to the west, it felt the lure of the frontier" (p. xiii). MacDonald argues that in Cabell's youth it was perceived that "Richmond had an English class hierarchy— old families (Virginians), old Richmonders (lawyers, physicians, clergymen), old merchants. . . . In reality the 'best people' in Richmond have always been a heterogeneous lot, intermarriages having occurred between the 'old' and 'new' in every decade" (p. xv). In this milieu MacDonald places the Cabells and Branches, who were not of the oldest families but who occupied respected positions in the social order.

Noting that it was "a Richmond custom that newlyweds would live with a parent or parents until the children arrived," MacDonald describes Cabell's birthplace at his Grandmother Branch's home, later the site of the Richmond Public Library. "It amused a mature Cabell to observe that he had been born on the second floor (approximately) of the public library" (p. 11).

The marriage of Cabell's parents was not a stable one, and MacDonald comments, "While the residences of his Grandmother Branch and his Grandfather Cabell were fixed, stable, geographical poles in a slowly turning Richmond, the abodes of young James Cabell's parents were peripatetic" (p. 24).

Of Cabell's education at William and Mary, MacDonald notes that Cabell was perceived as different from the norm. Noting that at this stage of its history the college was largely attended by rural, middle-class youths many of whom were on teaching scholarships, MacDonald describes Cabell's appearance: "Classroom attire at such colleges as William and Mary was the ubiquitous dark Sunday-best suit, usually ill-fitting and inhibiting. The cut of young Mr. Cabell's clothes set him apart, and the cane and yellow gloves marked him as someone outside the experience of his rustic counterparts" (p. 46).

Other important experiences for Cabell at William and Mary were his role in resurrecting the college literary magazine and the formation of two important friendships. As MacDonald describes

it: "While Dr. Robert Cabell and Anne Harris Branch gave physical life to James Branch Cabell, Charles Washington Coleman and Gabriella Brook Moncure were more truly the parents of the literary figure who emerged in the first two decades of the twentieth century. Coleman put the pen in his hand and Moncure gave him the inspiration."

Another creative act MacDonald writes of is Cabell's "pygmalion" activities after his marriage to Priscilla Shepherd, a widow four and a half years older than the author. He describes Cabell as "a dangerous thirty-three," increasingly aware "that he would be a fool not to strike while he still had some looks left." MacDonald shows him after his marriage engaged in "making over his wife's appearances and social graces; the myth-maker waved his wand over their 'anonymous house.' Old portraits, antiques, bric-a-brac replaced the furniture store decor."

For Cabell, MacDonald writes, "The prosaic rituals of domestic life with his wife and stepchildren were tinged with irreality, contrasting strangely, indeed disturbingly, with the more real intensity of his dreaming." Although this aspect of Cabell's aloof character is convincingly described, it is nevertheless true that in the biography, the discussion of Cabell's life seems more compelling than the analyses of his works. MacDonald either assumes his readers have a good prior knowledge of the work, or he feels that in his study the emphasis on the writer's life rather than his works is of primary importance. There are, however, a number of important facets of Cabell's literary career treated here, including the often-discussed publication history of *Jurgen*, his long-time relationship with editor Guy Holt and his friendships with Carl Van Vechten, Joseph Hergesheimer, and Frances Newman. MacDonald also includes Hugh Walpole's penetrating assessment of Cabell's writing style. "It is the easiest thing in the world to denounce it as affected, perverse, unnatural, and forced. It would be at once an artificial style were it not entirely natural to the man." Even less flattering was Charles Baldwin's remark about Cabell that "he wrote English 'as though it were a dead language'" (p. 268).

Of particular interest to readers of Florida literature is MacDonald's extensive treatment of Cabell's friendship with Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings as well as his accounts of Cabell's response to local reaction to his Florida books, such as a comment he made in 1942: "The last week has been wholly insane with parties in honor of [*The First Gentleman of America*], of which Florida approves, with

naivete, because it is about Florida and it has been mentioned by Kate Smith over the radio" (p. 311). Of the reception to *The St. Johns* (coauthored with A. J. Hanna), Cabell remarked: "I am not over eager to write any more Floridian history after Florida's reception of the St. Johns. Outside the state, the book had . . . a mild triumph; inside, there seemed to be an obscure resentment that the history of Florida had not been presented, as is customary, in a form which nobody could read" (p. 317).

Cabell's relationship with Ellen Glasgow has long been a subject of interest to scholars, and MacDonald recounts in detail the development of their friendship. He notes that Glasgow's "national prominence ranked with Cabell's. Her social standing in Richmond, however, ranked higher than his in local judgment, and he stood in awe of her commanding presence. If her deafness was a tribulation to her in society, it was not so inhibiting an affliction as his shyness" (p. 283). MacDonald traces Cabell's influence on Glasgow's development of the idea of her novels constituting a "social history" and describes how the two writers ultimately became boosters for one another's literary reputations. But his inclusion of a comment Cabell made about his reaction to Glasgow's death is revealing: "I admit that I went all to pieces and displayed a depth of emotion which I could not but admire" (p. 321).

The self-consciousness of this remark is indicative, finally, of the portrait of Cabell we see here. Although much of Cabell's work is biographical, he carefully controlled the image of himself that he presented for view. Readers of MacDonald's work will gain insight into what informed Cabell's life and work but will come away feeling that, as MacDonald suggests, there was always a protective mask surrounding James Branch Cabell, one that is well described here but never really removed.

Florida State University

ANNE E. ROWE

The Management of College and University Archives. By William J. Maher. (Metuchen, NJ: Society of American Archivists and Scarecrow Press, 1992. xv, 430 pp. Preface, acknowledgments, illustrations, appendices, index. \$49.50.)

Vanity Letters: Documenting Modern Colleges and Universities. By Helen Willa Samuels. (Metuchen, NJ: Society of American Archivists and Scarecrow Press, 1992. 281 pp. Acknowledgments, photographs, index. \$29.50.)

Researchers in the field of United States history depend upon the combined efforts of librarians and archivists to acquire, manage, and preserve the primary and secondary source materials that comprise the written historical record. Yet relatively few historical researchers are thoroughly familiar with the current professional theories, practices, and attitudes of archivists and librarians. The formal graduate education of historians emphasizes literature, historiography, and research methodology, but it seldom includes required course work in either librarianship or archival theory and management.

Customarily, historians learn about individual archives or libraries by pursuing sources important to their own interests. Through the experience of visiting various repositories and interacting with the staff members in each, historical investigators gradually familiarize themselves with local holdings, procedures, working conditions, and personalities, but they may well remain unaware of current professional trends in these very important related disciplines. Fortunately, the publication of two significant new works will make it much easier for historians and anyone else with an interest in American history to acquire a basic understanding of current thought and practice in the realm of archives.

The Management of College and University Archives by William J. Maher of the University of Illinois is a clearly written, detailed, nuts-and-bolts guide to understanding or establishing an academic archive, which also carefully places the college archive within the context of standard archival practice. In contrast, *Varsity Letters* by Helen Willa Samuels of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology is a more theoretical and narrowly focused work. It is concerned not with all aspects of archival administration and technique but rather with the selection of documentation for archives.

Maher has arranged his presentation in seven sections or extended chapters covering a substantial number of related issues. Following the introduction Maher effectively describes the fundamental elements of a successful academic archival program. He then compares the unique conditions facing the academic archivist to general conditions within the discipline by explaining archi-

val theory, procedures, and techniques. Maher proceeds in the subsequent four sections to discuss special problems facing college archivists (such as machine-readable records), special challenges (such as ever-changing lines of institutional authority), on-going programmatic activities (such as records management), and, in conclusion, the critical challenge of maintaining effective personal working relationships within the framework of the larger institution.

Each section of *The Management of College and University Archives* contains excellent bibliographic notes. Besides providing clear explanations of terminology throughout the text, Maher has included five useful appendices: a select annotated bibliography about archival management, the Society of American Archivists 1979 "Guidelines for College and University Archives," the 1975 "Resolution on Theses and Dissertations" of the SAA College and University Archives Committee, a general bibliography on archival theory and practice, and a series of model forms used in operating an archive. The book also includes a thorough index.

While *The Management of College and University Archives* is a comprehensive work that strives to relate the academic archival variant to the wider archival world, *Varsity Letters* focuses on just one aspect (albeit vital) of archival work—collection development or the selection of appropriate documents to be preserved in the archive. Specifically, *Varsity Letters* advocates a new archival collection development approach or theory called institutional functional analysis.

Briefly, Samuels argues that archivists should select records for preservation based on the functions of the institution that produced them, rather than with reference to the administrative structure of that body. Thus, the first step in selecting records should be to perform an institutional functional analysis. Samuels identifies seven basic functions common to academic institutions: confer credentials, convey knowledge, foster socialization, conduct research, sustain the institution, provide public service, and promote culture. She contends that, using institutional functional analysis, such a list of basic functions could be prepared for any organization, regardless of its formal administrative apparatus.

The volume consists of ten chapters. The first explains the rationale behind Samuels's functional approach to selection and the second identifies the seven basic functions of universities. Each of the next seven chapters lucidly defines the several activities that together make up one of the seven basic functions. These seven chapters are the strength of the book, for they both list the compo-

ment academic activities for each function and give lucid descriptions of the types of institutional records that document such activities. A very brief bibliography follows each of these chapters. Finally, the book concludes with a sample Institutional Documentation Plan and an index.

Varsity Letters provides an intriguing overview of the multifaceted nature of the modern American university. The reader finds himself intellectually challenged by Samuels's well reasoned placement of certain university activities under one or another of the seven basic functions and favorably impressed by her mastery of the evidentiary potential of the numerous documents churned out by the academic machine. Perhaps because the book was intended as a call for a new intellectual approach to archival selection, Samuels has kept footnotes to a minimum and avoided a general bibliography altogether.

Nationally, the emergence of archival units at colleges and universities is a fairly recent phenomenon dating from the 1950s and accelerating rapidly during the following decades. The arrival of these two informative titles, copublished by The Society of American Archivists, in a sense marks the coming of age of academic archives and archivists. Maher's insightful book, with its straightforward and matter-of-fact style, is the first truly comprehensive treatment of this subject and seems likely to remain the standard work for many years. Samuels's articulate argument is a significant contribution to the literature on archival selection and the complexities of the contemporary American university.

Readers of the *Florida Historical Quarterly* can gain a great deal of insight into the operation of historical repositories by consulting these two skillfully created works. Researchers desirous of improving their relationships with curators or of advocating the selection by curators of certain types of materials essential to their own needs would likewise do well to become acquainted with these books. Public as well as academic libraries will find *The Management of College and University Archives* and *Varsity Letters* essential for both patrons and staff.

Edwardsville, IL

STEPHEN KERBER

BOOK NOTES

The well known journal *Southern Living* has brought together a collection of essays from its "Southern Journal" section to publish a slim volume entitled *Southern Journal: Moments in Time*. Intended as a diary of southern ways— a literary daybook that documents "southernness"— the book covers a broad array of topics, including family history, beauty pageants, and antiques. It can be ordered from Southern Living, P. O. Box 523-A, Birmingham, AL 35201. Make out a check for \$6.95 to Southern Living Journal Book.

The colorful history of merchant seamen and pirates operating in the Atlantic and Caribbean is revealed in Marcus Rediker, *Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea: Merchant Seamen, Pirates, and the Anglo-American Maritime World, 1700-1750*. Using a huge array of historical sources, the book reconstructs the social and cultural world of the seamen who sailed the oceans in the first half of the eighteenth century. Rediker recreates life along the waterfront, with its brothels, alehouses, and street brawls, as well as the experiences aboard ship, especially the natural terror that shaped the existence of those who sailed the waters in small wooden vessels. It is available from Cambridge University Press, 32 East 57th Street, New York, NY 10022 for \$42.95.

Amelia Wallace Vernon's *African Americans at Mars Bluff, South Carolina* traces the history of the African American community in this small farming community from the mid-nineteenth century to the mid-twentieth century. The author was prompted to write the story when she learned in the 1970s that two hewn-timber houses built by African Americans about 1836 were to be torn down. She began to interview older residents of the community who related stories that connected back to the days of slavery. In the course of relating this century-long saga, the author reveals a host of interesting discoveries, including an intriguing hypothesis linking the introduction of rice growing to the skills and materials brought by slaves. The book can be ordered from Louisiana State University Press, Box 25053, Baton Rouge, LA 70893-5053 for \$29.95.

The Rivers of Florida, edited by Del and Marty Marth, is a handsomely illustrated volume introducing the major waterways of the state. Composed of photographs, maps, and essays, the book devotes attention to eighteen different rivers including the Suwanee, Apalachicola, Withlacoochee, Kissimmee, and Waccasassa. The editors make an eloquent plea for the historical and commercial significance of the state's principal tributaries, making clear that they constitute one of Florida's most valuable natural resources. It is available from Pineapple Press, P. O. Drawer 16008, Southside Station, Sarasota, FL 34239 for \$24.95.

A special 50th anniversary edition of Theodore Pratt's *The Barefoot Mailman* has recently appeared. First printed in 1943, the story details the work of the barefoot mailmen of Florida who tramped a hundred-mile stretch of beach along the roadless southeast coast. They found it was easier to walk barefoot on the soft sand than to try and traverse the route inland. It took three days each way for the carrier to cover his route between Miami and Palm Beach. The typical mailman walked nearly 7,000 miles each year, often under a broiling sun (and an occasional hurricane). Mail was delivered in this fashion until the 1890s when the railroad took over delivery operations. Order the volume from the Florida Classics Library, P. O. Box 1657, Port Salerno, FL 34992-1657 for \$7.95.

W. Horace Carter has published *Florida Nature Coast: Tales and Truths*, a collection of vignettes and stories about life along the Nature Coast—encompassing the shore areas of Dixie, Levy, Pasco, Hernando, Citrus, Taylor, Jefferson, and Wakulla counties. The first portion of the volume is devoted to historical coverage of the hardy settlers who came to the region around the turn of the century. Dramatic acts of violence, natural disaster, and romance dot these pages. The book can be obtained from The Atlantic Advantage, P. O. Box 67, Highway 701, Tabor City, NC 28463 for \$14.95.

The Florida Bureau of Archaeological Research recently published issue no. 7 in its series *Florida Archaeology*. The series is intended to provide information about the activities of the Florida Division of Historical Resources relating to archaeology, anthropology, and history. The current publication, *Visitation and Revolts*

in Florida, 1656-1695, consists of a series of translations by John H. Hann of the best sources of information on the missions of Spanish Florida and on the natives whom they served during the second half of the seventeenth century. It can be ordered from the Museum of Florida History, History Shop, 500 South Bronough Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250 for \$12.00.

Robert "Frogfoot" Weller has published *Galleon Hunt*, a history of treasure salvage operations in the Florida Keys. The volume focuses on the 1950s, the treasure salvage years, and the pathfinder of modern salvage techniques, Art "Silver Bar" McKee. For anyone who has dreamed of recovering gold doubloons and silver pieces of eight, this is a must read. Order the book from "Crossed Anchors Salvage," 1818 17th Avenue North, Lake Worth, FL 33461.

William Lee Miller's *The Business of May Next: James Madison and the Founding* is now available in a paperback edition. The volume examines the nation's founding not from the heroics of the battlefield and podium but from the quiet work of reading and thinking. The author shows that James Madison's great research project into what went wrong with other republics is as critical to our national life as Bunker Hill and *Common Sense*. At its heart the book outlines the moral, political, and intellectual underpinnings of the American political system. It is available from the University Press of Virginia, P. O. Box 3608, University Station, Charlottesville, VA 22903 for \$10.95.

The question of whether and, if so, how the South is "different" from the rest of the nation continues to intrigue students of American history, literature, and culture. In *The Burden of Dependency: Colonial Themes in Southern Economic Thought* Joseph J. Persky relates this question to the history of southern economic thought from its beginnings in the seventeenth century through the mid-twentieth century. Closely reading the works of Thomas Jefferson, George Fitzhugh, Henry Grady, and others, Persky traces the history of an idea that had important consequences— the southern sense of economic dependency. Southerners deeply resented what they perceived as economic exploitation— first by Great Britain and later by the industrial North— and Persky believes this resentment may help explain southern restiveness throughout much of

U.S. history. This intriguing book may be ordered from the Johns Hopkins University Press, 701 West 40th Street, Suite 275, Baltimore, MD 21211 for \$28.50.

A second edition of James C. Cobb's *The Selling of the South: The Southern Crusade for Industrial Development, 1936-90* has recently been published by the University of Illinois Press. The new volume integrates the southern experience more fully into national and international economic developments than the first, and it includes much new material on the South in the 1980s. The book can be ordered from the press at 54 East Gregory Drive, Champaign, IL 61820 for \$32.50, cloth; \$13.95, paper.

From C. Vann Woodward, the dean of southern history, comes the third edition of his highly acclaimed *The Burden of Southern History*. Published first in 1960, this Louisiana State University Press publication has been twice revised by the author. As in the original volume, Woodward explores "The Search for Southern Identity" and "The Irony of Southern History." This edition adds three new essays to the 1968 revision: a further reflection on the theme of irony and changes in race relations and separate essays on writers William Faulkner and Robert Penn Warren. This fine book can be ordered from the press, P. O. Box 25053, Baton Rouge, LA 70894-5053; \$35.00, cloth; \$11.95, paper.

Those who saw the highly acclaimed Civil War movie *Glory* will remember Colonel Robert Gould Shaw. He was the child of Boston aristocracy, an abolitionist, and commander of the Fifty-fourth Massachusetts Infantry, the nation's first all-black fighting regiment. *Blue-Eyed Child of Fortune: The Civil War Letters of Colonel Robert Gould Shaw*, edited by Russell Duncan and published in paperback by Avon Books, is now available. This collection of nearly 200 letters, many written from Shaw to his mother, portrays a complex and fascinating man. He led an advantaged life, receiving his education at the finest preparatory schools and then at Harvard University. His correspondence after assuming command of the Fifty-fourth notes his struggles with racism, doubts that black soldiers would measure up to white men in battle, and whether blacks *should* fight for their own freedom. The book can be ordered for \$12.50 from Avon Books, 1350 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10019.

Returning to print in paperback is LaWanda Cox's *Lincoln and Black Freedom: A Study in Presidential Leadership*. First published in 1981, this study of Abraham Lincoln's short-lived role in Reconstruction tempers the view of the slain president as the "Great Emancipator" with evidence that his commitment to African American freedom was often obscured by his desire to achieve the joint goals of union and emancipation. Despite the political expediency of Lincoln's policies, Cox demonstrates that his wartime reconstruction efforts in Louisiana incorporated significant freedoms for the former slaves. Had the president lived through his second term, Cox believes, the conflict between Congress and Andrew Johnson would have been avoided and African Americans would have received a more lasting measure of justice and equality. To order *Lincoln and Black Freedom* for \$14.95 contact University of South Carolina Press, 1716 College Street, Columbia, SC 29208.

Michael O'Brien, one of the South's leading intellectual historians, has brought together in one volume a series of essays previously published in numerous sources but introduced by an original piece. Despite covering a wide variety of topics, from W. J. Cash to Hugh Legaré and southern romantics in Italy to C. Vann Woodward, O'Brien maintains a consistent theme throughout; that is, southern intellectuals need to be taken seriously on their own terms within a framework of southern culture and without value judgements based on an implicit comparison between North and South. Order this Brown Thrasher book from the University of Georgia Press, 330 Research Drive, Athens, GA 30602. The price is \$19.95.