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BOOK REVIEWS

Jose Marti in the United States: The Florida Experience, by Louis A. Perez, Jr. (Tempe: ASU Center for Latin American Studies, 1995. x, 114 pp. Preface, introduction, illustrations, endnotes, references and bibliographies. \$25.00.)

This slender volume consists of 10 essays originally presented as papers at a 1992 conference in Tampa on the theme "Jose Marti in Florida— Florida in Jose Marti."

The material ranges from eloquent to impenetrable. It covers every aspect of the Cuban martyr's efforts in Florida to wrest his homeland from Spanish rule in the 1890s.

And it is worth tackling if you have any interest in Marti, an intriguing, charismatic figure who sparked the revolution that eventually brought U.S. intervention in what we call the Spanish-America War.

During his long exile in the United States (1880-1895), Marti gained inspiration from the Cuban cigar makers in Florida and, in turn, he inspired them.

Marti was not a prototype firebrand. As the recently deceased novelist Jose Yglesias pointed out in his comments, the native of Havana was:

" . . . a brave, uncomplaining young rebel, though the jailing he suffered broke his health; a loving father to his little son; a father to his nation (the very idea of Cuba being a nation seems his); a ground-breaking poet; a great journalist; a superb prose stylist; an unexcelled organizer and teacher; an utterly sincere and honest and forthright friend and correspondent. . ."

Hyperbole? Perhaps, but Marti elicited that sort of emotion from his followers and from many of those who have analyzed and researched his life.

This book examines the interplay between Marti and the Cuban exiles who had migrated to Florida after earlier efforts to loosen the yoke of Spanish rule on their home island had failed.

Conference organizer Perez lays the groundwork with a cogent narrative essay that points up the relationship: "He [Marti] organized them politically; they shaped him ideologically. He provided the means [to build a revolutionary movement]; they defined the end."

Perez relates how an invitation from the Ignacio Agramonte Patriotic Club of Tampa in 1891 brought Marti from New York City to Tampa's Ybor City and essentially lit the fuse that ignited the fighting in Cuba four years later.

(Unaccountably, an introductory preface by K. Lynn Stoner and Diana Abad gives the impression that Agramonte was an individual in Tampa rather than a hero of the 10-Year War. It also misspells the cigar-making community name as "Ibor" City.)

Other essays include a look at Marti's cultivation of women and Afro-Cuban supporters in Ybor City; how the Cuban Patriotic League of Tampa became submerged in the Cuban Revolutionary Party; and Marti's views on Cuban independence in relation to the United States' economic, political and social agenda of that period.

Two papers dealing with Marti's writing were beyond me. Wading through prose like this— "The exemplary life of an individual metonymically became a site for formulating the image of the desired collective being"— was just too much for my limited intellect.

One article differs from the rest in that it focuses on Marti City— an all-Cuban cigar making community that sprang up west of downtown Ocala in the late 1880s. The revolutionary leader made two visits there in 1892.

In his climactic essay, Yglesias appeals for a greater role in American history for Marti. ". . . he is a man whose time among us must be better known by Americans," he writes. This book should help to achieve that goal.

The Tampa Tribune

LELAND HAWES

Florida's Pioneer Naturalist: The Life of Charles Torrey Simpson. By Elizabeth Ogren Rothra. (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 1995. xv, 232 pp. Preface, introduction, photographs, notes, bibliography, index. \$49.95.)

Much of the history of south Florida since statehood involves human clearing, cutting and draining an often frightening, unknown wilderness and transforming it into agricultural use or a

comfortable place in the sun. It is today a region where most inhabitants are recent settlers who learn of its past and present environmental destruction through two-minute segments on the local television news or, perhaps, from popular, environmentally-conscious novelists such as John D. MacDonald and Carl Hiaasen. Many important books on the early natural history of the state are out-of-print and not readily available. The books of Charles Torrey Simpson (*In Lower Florida Wilds*, *Out of Doors in Florida* and *Florida Wild Life*) are examples.

Simpson (1846-1932), a largely self-educated and self-trained scholar and explorer, made significant contributions to our understanding of mollusks, tropical botany and horticulture, and diverse aspects of south Florida's natural history. Elizabeth Ogren Rothra's biography of Simpson, entitled *Florida's Pioneer Naturalist*, is a highly readable, carefully researched book on Simpson's life. Simpson, like so many Florida visitors who followed, became enamored with the state and decided to forsake the wintry north in favor of warmth and sunshine. Rothra leads us through his first period of Florida residency (1881-1885) near Sarasota, where Simpson and pioneer nurseryman Pliny Reasoner set out to explore much of south Florida's wild areas, motivated by a mixture of scientific curiosity and economic need. Simpson reluctantly left Florida in 1886. For 13 years (1890-1902) he was employed in the Smithsonian Institution's Department of Mollusks. His activities and publications during those years did much to strengthen his reputation as a shell expert, or malacologist, although his lack of formal education often left him an outsider in some scientific circles.

In 1902, he retired to live on 15 acres near Biscayne Bay and for the next 30 years became a recognized authority on tropical horticulture and natural history. His unique design-with-nature house and gardens became a gathering point for scientists, educators, and a curious public. In his later years, he also promoted national park status for the Everglades.

Simpson was no armchair biologist, but an experienced field investigator who endured numerous illnesses and hardships during his travels. His field observations on south Florida's natural history, whether of his beloved tree snails or royal palms, are an important historical record of the region's rapidly changing environment.

Although Simpson is the focus of the book, through him Rothra introduces us to other prominent scientists working in south

Florida, such as David Fairchild and John Kunkel Small. The reader gains an appreciation not only for Simpson but also for the prevailing world view among natural historians and horticulturists during the late 19th and early 20th century. Simpson's pleas for restraint in destroying Florida's natural areas sound much like those of today's naturalists and ecologists; both are dim echoes against the clamor of development.

Florida's Pioneer Naturalist is an outstanding portrayal of an important field naturalist witnessing the changing environment of south Florida. Although the book will surely be of interest to historians, horticulturists and malacologists, the real strength of the book is the clear, straightforward style that makes it accessible and fascinating to the general reader. The tone of the book is objective and non-emotional, yet involved; perhaps for that reason it is difficult to read the passages describing primeval nature in south Florida without feeling a deep sense of loss.

The book deserves a wide audience. A lower-priced paperback edition might increase circulation. An ardent environmentalist might suggest that this book be recommended reading for any south Florida resident, as well as any new residents as they move into the state.

University of Idaho
Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources

DENNIS L. SCARNECCHIA

Panic In Paradise: Florida's Banking Crash of 1926. By Raymond B. Vickers. (Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 1994. xviii, 313 pp. Preface, acknowledgments, notes, bibliography, index, about the author. \$34.95.)

Working from a recently opened cache of bank records that government officials had sealed in 1931, Raymond B. Vickers has constructed a revisionist's account of the banking crisis that shook Florida during the 1920s. In doing so, he challenges the conventional view of Charlton W. Tebeau and others, that a collapse in Florida land values at mid-decade spawned a regional recession, which in turn caused the banking crash of 1926. Instead, more than 90 percent of the banks that failed during the period, Vickers argues, resulted from extensive insider abuses, conscious conspiracy to bilk the public, or both. To be sure, besides looting the banks

they pledged to protect, insiders, Vickers claims, “tried to get rich by wildly speculating with depositors’ money and when their schemes failed so did their banks” (5).

Vickers’ central thesis is that the bank regulatory system needs a radical renovation based on disclosure rather than secrecy. Today’s “secret regulatory system,” he charges, is a sham that caused the recent savings and loan debacle. Vickers thus advocates a banking-in-the-sunshine law mandating full disclosure for financial institutions, their officers, and regulatory agencies. If enacted, such reform would provide an effective way for the public to regulate its banking system and, according to Vickers, prevent a banking crisis in the future.

To support his case, Vickers unsnarls a web of deceit in the 1920s that involved bankers, promoters, regulators, and politicians and reached upward to include Vice President Charles G. Dawes. By 1926, for example, conspirator James R. Anthony had become a prominent banker in Florida by adept use of money and politics. Anthony’s connections with comptrollers Ernest Amos and William V. Knott, enabled him to build an empire of 61 banks with deposits in excess of \$120 million. Purportedly, he wielded so much influence that his banks could ignore the banking laws of Florida with impunity. And since both comptrollers endorsed dozens of charters for Anthony, “the likelihood of a banking catastrophe increased with the opening of each new bank” (39). That, Vickers asserts, explains why Florida bank assets fell more than \$300 million in 1926 during the initial phase of the crisis. But it also supposedly answers why they declined from \$943 million to \$375 million between 1926 and 1929.

While Vickers deserves praise for uncovering an impressive array of untapped documents, his source material outshines his analysis. As Steven Horwitz has noted, Vickers’ book eschews monetary theory and ignores the economics literature that deals specifically with fractional reserve banking and bank runs. Moreover, he omits a general discussion of how banks create credit and money. Therefore he fails to elaborate what factors could have influenced the supply of money in Florida during the 1920s. Since this journal is not a proper forum for a lengthy discourse on monetarism, suffice it to say the insider abuses and criminal conspiracies that Vickers exposes in *Panic in Paradise* caused neither the land boom nor its collapse. Rather, both events stemmed from historical developments that gave rise to changes in reserves at Florida banks, which

directly affected the stock of money. Between 1915 and 1925, to illustrate the point, the state's credit and money aggregates multiplied due to increases in bank reserves. Simply put, as reserves flowed into Florida, the lending power of its banks expanded, the public borrowed more to buy land, and the real estate market soared.

Although Vickers misinterprets the banking scene in Florida during the 1920s, his book contributes significantly to the literature on the land boom. *Panic In Paradise* is well organized, highly readable, and clearly argued. In neo-Progressive fashion the author has marshaled new evidence to illuminate the widespread white collar crime that accompanied—rather than caused—the Florida land boom.

Daytona Beach Community College

JOHN J. GUTHRIE, JR.

The Florida Land Boom: Speculation, Money and the Banks. By William Frazer and John J. Guthrie, Jr. (Westport, CT: Quorum Books, 1995. xviii, 181 pp. Preface, introduction, illustrations, epilogue, references, index. \$55.00.)

William Frazer and John Guthrie's *The Florida Land Boom* is flawed in both methodology and interpretation. It contributes little to the literature of the Florida land boom because of its lack of original research. Suffering from a dearth of primary banking and legal records, it relies on anecdotal information to support the authors' unproven economic theories.

Frazer and Guthrie argue that "huge inflows of bank reserves from elsewhere in the United States" produced the land boom (xiv). Offering no documentation to support their conspiracy theory, they say that prohibition and the smuggling operations in Florida had "an enormous impact" on the land boom because money laundering schemes created a "currency drain" from northern banks to those in Florida (3, 4, 11, 26). They attempt to support their argument by using anecdotes and a photograph of rumrunning boats that were seized by the Coast Guard in 1921 (4).

Frazer and Guthrie contend that the boom collapsed when a rapid outflow of Florida's bank reserves caused the frenzy to subside, land values to plunge, and numerous banks to lock their doors (3). They slight the central event that turned Florida's reces-

sion into a depression: the banking panic of 1926, which followed charges of fraud against the promoter Addison Mizner and his banker W. D. Manley, who controlled 61 banks in Florida with deposits of more than \$120 million. Panic swept through Florida and Georgia forcing 117 banks to close during ten days of July 1926. After violent runs by depositors, 150 banks had failed in the two states by the end of 1926.

Although many bankers engaged in insider abuse and fraud, Frazer and Guthrie absolve them of any blame for the banking crisis. But they rely on self-serving data provided by retired bank presidents and the former president of the Florida Bankers Association. However, the most glaring flaw in their methodology is their failure to review the bank regulatory records which are available in the National Archives and the Florida State Archives. Had they consulted these records they would have found that promoter-bankers precipitated the crisis by engaging in illegal and dishonest activities. How can one determine why banks failed without examining the regulatory records?

Instead of searching for the truth, *The Florida Land Boom* represents an attempt by Frazer, the senior author, to justify his economic theory about why the boom occurred and then collapsed. Rather than using the primary banking records, which have been available at the Florida State Archives since 1989, the book relies primarily on Frazer's previous works as the supporting references. Throughout the book the authors challenge documented facts by repeatedly citing the works of Frazer and discussing them in the third person.

They attribute Addison Mizner's fiasco in Boca Raton to "poor timing" (10, 107, 109, 121, 123, 128, 150, 152). The authors would have formed different opinions had they reviewed the bankruptcy records of the Mizner Development Corporation and the transcript of the criminal trial of W. D. Manley (National Archives in Atlanta), the regulatory records of the comptroller of the currency (Washington), and the banking records in the Florida State Archives. These records reveal how Mizner participated in a bank fraud conspiracy. After his partners acquired control of the Palm Beach National Bank, Mizner looted the bank by using worthless promissory notes to procure loans.

Frazer and Guthrie defend Mizner as an "artistic enterprising participant" and apologize for his reckless abandon and criminal behavior by writing about "hope, monuments, and achievements

that extend beyond greed, fraud, and interlocking directors" (107). But what about the depositors of failed banks, who had to pay for Mizner's extravaganza with their life savings? Mizner's "monuments" were paid for by other people's money and misery.

Mizner's actions, despite his imagination and talent as an architect, were indefensible. Blaming his debacle on bad timing is disingenuous. In fact, the Boca Raton project began in April 1925, at the height of the boom, when 3,750 lot buyers executed sales contracts totalling nearly \$22 million. Yet Mizner squandered millions of dollars and turned Boca Raton into what his brother Wilson called a "platinum sucker trap."

Frazer and Guthrie excuse the gross misconduct of Mizner and his bankers by saying that current standards of ethics cannot be applied to the 1920s. But bank fraud was as illegal in the 1920s as it is today. Indeed, it was the charges of fraud against Mizner and his bankers that sparked the banking panic of 1926.

Economics by anecdote is not a sound approach. The historical record, including the regulatory records of failed banks, proves that more than 90 percent of the banks that failed in Florida during the 1920s involved insider abuse or fraud. The theories of Frazer and Guthrie do not change this basic fact.

Florida State University

RAYMOND B. VICKERS

Femina Perfecta: The Genesis of Florida State University. By Robin Jeanne Sellers. (Tallahassee: Florida State University Foundation, 1995. xvi, 340 pp. Message from the president, publisher's foreword, publisher's acknowledgments, author's foreword, photographs, appendices, notes, sources, index. \$19.95 paper.)

In a decade defined mainly by the machismo of college football and championship games, it is rare to hear Florida State alumni speak proudly of the university's origins as 'the girl's school' in Tallahassee. This is unfortunate, as FSU's predecessor had an outstanding academic reputation and was a leader in single gender education. From its inception in the early years of the century, Florida State College for Women was noted for both its scholarship and its spirit. Exploring this proud heritage is the goal of *Femina Perfecta: The Genesis of Florida State University*.

In an effort to reduce needless duplication and excessive spending, the 1905 Buckman Act created four state-supported fa-

cilities for higher education, including the Florida Female College, which rose from both the remains of the West Florida Seminary and its successor, the Florida State College. Florida Female College's President A. A. Murphree had hoped to head the new university in Gainesville, but was disappointed in his quest. Perhaps in retaliation, he decided to have his institution outshine its rival and set high standards for students and faculty. Renamed Florida State College for Women (FSCW) in 1909, the college also acquired a new leader, Dr. Edward Conradi, who guided FSCW through the greater part of its existence. Every year brought higher enrollments, but less classroom and dormitory space. While dealing with practical matters of funding and housing, the conservative Conradi tried to avoid all controversy. His Victorian morality often frustrated the increasingly liberal student body, which resented outdated forms of discipline and seclusion. World War II marked the beginning of the end for FSCW. As Florida faced the demands of returning GIs, the days of single gender isolation in Tallahassee's ivory tower quietly came to a close. The Class of 1947, the last class of FSCW, was also the first graduating class of the co-ed Florida State University.

Sellers does a thorough job of documenting the growth of FSCW, discussing the changes in administrations, faculty, finances, and student attitudes which shaped the school. Names given to dormitories and classroom buildings become charming, eccentric, and dedicated people. Sellers demonstrates the practical difficulties faced by the school's leadership, and uses anecdotes, photographs, and quotations to provide a fairly comprehensive sketch of student life and campus shenanigans. FSCW alumni will cherish this small volume, which hints that while outdated rules and unfinished dorms were often annoying, modern co-eds should envy their grandmothers' freedom to study, play, and create a unique school spirit free of male peers' domination.

Unfortunately, this rosy view of the past does not probe the areas that a serious student of women's history would choose to explore. Little is mentioned about FSCW's relations with the outside world, or how students reacted to local controversies. Sellers does not probe the class and regional divisions that surely must have run deeper than Junior/Senior basketball rivalries. Except for a few celebrities, Sellers does not comment on the achievements of FSCW women after graduation. Did most FSCW graduates use their education to pursue careers, or did the bright young women quickly

succumb to societal expectations to marry and stay home? Did FSCW produce the 'femina perfecta' or merely educated housewives? Most puzzling is the abruptness of the shift to co-education. If FSCW was really so beloved, why was there so little discussion or protest about the change? Certainly the events of the last decade of FSCW's existence need to be more thoroughly investigated and related to the changes in society brought about by the war.

These questions, however, should not detract from the overall merits of this book, the first serious academic study of FSCW. It is a much needed addition to the history of Florida State University, demonstrating that FSCW's sound foundation of liberal arts, fine arts, and teacher training programs later enabled FSU to become nationally known in these fields. Accounts of student activities and a special memorabilia section are enjoyable and informative. As a publication sponsored by the FSCW/FSU Class of 1947, *Femina Perfecta* is academically sound yet designed for a general audience, and will hopefully serve as the point from which a more critical and analytical work on FSCW could begin.

Wofford College

TRACEY J. REVELS

The Naked Warriors: The Story of the U.S. Navy's Frogmen. By Francis Douglas Fane and Don Moore. (Annapolis, MD: Naval Institute Press, 1956, reprint ed., 1995. xvi, 308 pp. Introduction, foreword, preface, photographs, index, about the authors. \$27.95.)

The Second World War saw the creation of many elite military units, but perhaps none were as unique as the U.S. Navy's combat swimmers or "frogmen." Their missions and even their existence however remained a closely guarded secret until well after 1945. *The Naked Warriors*, originally published in 1956, was the first detailed account of the creation and operations of these special men. It is still an interesting and at times engrossing tale of the human spirit overcoming the challenges often found in the cauldron of war.

Faced with the difficult task of conducting successful amphibious landings on the shores of Europe and on Pacific islands, American commanders chose to form a highly-trained group of demolition experts to blast paths through man-made and natural beach obstacles. In 1943 Lieutenant Commander Draper L. Kauff-

man received orders to create such a naval organization in the fastest possible time. Kauffman needed a training site with suitable beaches and climate, plus access to support facilities. He soon picked the new Amphibious Training Base at Fort Pierce, Florida as the best location for his priority assignment.

Fort Pierce became the birthplace of the Navy's frogmen and a primary combat demolition school for the rest of the war. Recruits, all volunteers, endured some of the most physically and mentally demanding training the American military could devise. No survivor of "Hell Week," a five-day test of strength and will, ever forgot it. The bulk of World War II naval demolition men came from the Fort Pierce school, and as the authors point out, the value of such training was proved many times over in combat. *The Naked Warriors* also details the work the swimmers did to develop operational tactics and equipment, much of which is still used by today's Navy SEAL teams.

Fort Pierce-schooled Naval Combat Demolition Units played a key role in the 1944 D-Day landings in France. These six-man groups hit the beaches of Normandy and carried on their explosive work in the face of confusion, heavy German fire, and death. Frogmen on Omaha Beach suffered over 50 percent casualties, but still managed to clear paths for the incoming invasion troops. In the end the use of men to hand-place demolition charges proved to be the only effective means to defeat static beach defenses. However, as Fane and Moore point out, research in Florida continued in the earnest hope of finding a safe, automated alternative.

Soon the Pacific theater captured the attention and resources of the "demolitioners" as American forces began their island-hopping campaign. Uncharted reefs and coral "heads" joined Japanese-constructed obstacles as landing menaces to be discovered and overcome. In 1944, 100-man-plus Underwater Demolition Teams (or UDTs) formed to scout and clear selected islands. Such missions entailed great risk for the swimmers as they were at times done in broad daylight under hostile fire. Clad only in swim trunks, sheath knives, and raw courage, UDT men brought back information that saved countless American lives. By 1945 some 30 operational UDTs were available for the planned invasion of Japan. By war's end the daring of the teams was such that one admiral referred to them simply as "half fish and half nut" (92).

Despite its many strengths, *The Naked Warriors* can not claim to be the definitive history of World War II and Korean War naval

combat demolition men. Considerable information has come to light since the study's original publication, much of which is located in the growing archives of the UDT-SEAL Museum appropriately located in Fort Pierce. Professional historians will be bothered by *The Naked Warriors'* lack of a complete bibliography and footnotes. Nevertheless this book remains an indispensable introduction to the formation and activities of the first generation of American naval combat swimmers.

Florida Atlantic University

ROBERT A. TAYLOR

Lynchings and Extralegal violence in Florida. By Walter T. Howard. (Selinsgrove: Susquehanna University Press, 1995. Acknowledgments, introduction, notes, bibliography, index. \$35.00.)

If Florida's southern credentials are open to challenge, the state shares much in common with the region, including mob violence. The assaults of white vigilantes against alleged criminals is the subject of this study. Blacks have most often been the victims. Setting the racial milieu that carried over into the 20th century, Howard describes the world of segregation, disfranchisement, and general subordination. Racism could and did degenerate into lynching. During the 1890s, the worst decade of such violence, Florida offered a "hostile environment" (27).

It is, however, the 1930s that concerns the author. Thirteen of the 16 murdered victims during the decade were black. The majority were lynched by mobs in north Florida, but in the rapidly urbanizing state, as many were killed in cities as rural areas. They were hanged, shot, burned, beaten, or died from gruesome combinations of the above. With reason, Howard writes, "the full range of mob terror can be seen" (21).

Most often, murder or rape has raised the passions of vigilantes. In Hamilton County, Henry Woods, a black, killed the white police chief in 1932. A manhunt resulted in Woods' murder several days later. Robert Johnson, another black, was accused of raping a white woman in Tampa in 1934. Although no charges were ever filed, Johnson was abducted from authorities and shot to death. Vigilantes did not ask many questions. Nor did they answer for their crimes. If the results were no less final, several dark episodes involving whites were less typical. A Hungarian immigrant became

the decade's first victim in 1930. John Hodaz was suspected of dynamiting a home in Plant City and seriously injuring a female occupant. Within three days he was arrested, forcefully taken from authorities, and lynched. Joseph Shoemaker was an active socialist in Tampa. His perceived radicalism in 1935 gained Shoemaker a flogging so severe that he died. The Socialist Party of America, instead of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) led the protests this time.

With reason, Howard is critical of law enforcement officials who failed to protect the suspected prisoners. The author also notes the ineffectiveness of Governors Doyle Carlton, David Sholtz, and Fred Cone. Although the executives could not have prevented the crimes, their reaction should have been tougher and more punitive. Instead, they "allowed local officials to behave inappropriately in one lynch affair after another" (137). Heinous crimes deserve extreme condemnation, and Howard frequently obliges. Some may judge him at points overly harsh. For instance, when Governor Sholtz was forwarded the recently-published *Lynching and the Law*, Howard decides, "whether Sholtz read (or even bothered to skim through) the book is not known" (47).

There is little to fault in *Lynching and Extralegal Violence in Florida* during the 1930s. The book is readable and well researched. Howard has examined state records, newspapers, and a wide variety of sources. Some readers may be confused by the use of the word "lynching" in the title. Few of the 16 victims were actually hanged. Yet, in its broadest sense, lynching connotes mob violence. With some facility, Howard places Florida vigilantism into a Southern context. As he points out, the state identified with "its sunshine, beaches, and palm trees" (14), but was also the scene of the largest number of lynchings in the South during the 1930s. In an able overview, Howard examines the explanations of vigilantism. He does not break any new historiographical ground, but that in no way limits the value of this work. As the author states, he is not challenging the substantial (and still developing) literature. Rather, Howard has collected and put in perspective developments that have larger meaning. In regard to the mob mentality, the lurid scenes in 1930s Florida corroborate the various theses of historians, sociologists, and psychologists.

Gainesville College

WILLIAM WARREN ROGERS, JR.

Florida Place Names. By Allen Morris. Joan Perry Morris, photo editor. (Sarasota: Pineapple Press, 1995. xii, 291 pp. Preface, introduction, photographs, acknowledgments, bibliography, index. \$21.95 hard cover.)

Allen Morris has written a book which delivers exactly what it promises. *Florida Place Names* is a listing of every county and most of the towns and cities, by both their present name and their earlier designations.

At the beginning of this year, Allen Morris retired from the position he held in Tallahassee. This is truly the end of an era. Anyone who has started to explore the government and history of Florida in the last half century has a debt to Allen Morris which very few of us will ever be able to repay. When I first came to Florida to teach—almost forty years ago— I found the *Florida Handbook*, which Allen Morris had published since 1947. According to the Associated Press it has been used by an estimated four million schoolchildren, countless legislators and lobbyists, and any one else interested in virtually anything about the state's government and history.

Newspaper correspondent, Associated Press bureau chief in Tallahassee, author of a column, "Cracker Politics" carried in 15 newspapers, this tenth-grade dropout has contributed more to the knowledge of Florida than have most of the Ph.D.s graduated in this state in the interim.

He has written a book on a subject which has never failed to interest the student and casual visitor to our state and nation. Who could not be fascinated by the music of Florida place names, with the hint of exotic places and the traces of the world, from Native Americans to the settlers who came to our shores, and the amalgamation of these people into native cracker. The unconscious poetry of this synthesis has an ability to move us emotionally and we owe a debt to Allen Morris for his effort and scholarship in compiling a listing of those magical place names.

Reading this book is entertainment. In many ways it is like a trip down a back road and through the towns of ones' memories.

The one shortcoming of this effort, however, seems to be in the paucity of African American influences in the listing of places. The reason for this is most likely beyond the responsibility of the author, but it would have been pleasant to have seen such locations as Overtown, Liberty City, Lincoln, and of course the first African American town in the present day United States, Fort Moosa.

The lack of these as well as many others is, I am sure, due to the sources from which these selections were made, most of the books in the bibliography from which these were taken are older references which would reflect the attitude of the station, region, and nation toward African Americans and their contributions to this state and nation.

This would seem to show the way for future scholars to more equitably treat this aspect of our history.

Special notice should be given to the illustrations included from the photographic archives which were collected by Joan Perry Morris. This archive and others like it throughout the state are invaluable resources for all of us.

Jacksonville

CHARLES DOUGLASS

Every Tub Must Sit on Its Own Bottom: The Philosophy and Politics of Zora Neale Hurston. By Deborah G. Plant. (Urban and Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 1995. x, 214 pp. Acknowledgments, introduction, notes, bibliography, index. \$25.95 cloth.)

A colorful and important participant in the black cultural renaissance of the 1920s and 1930s, Zora Neale Hurston was mostly forgotten when she died in 1960. The novelist Alice Walker helped reintroduce her to the reading public in the 1970s and Robert Hemmenway's excellent 1977 biography made her a serious topic of scholarly research. She is today the best known and most read black female writer before Alice Walker's generation. Hurston's chief fame lies in her 1947 novel, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, but all of her major work has been reprinted since 1979. Besides her autobiographical *Dust Tracks in the Road* (1942/1984), these include, most recently *Jonah's Gourd Vine* (1934/1990), *Tell My Horse* (1938/1990), and *Seraph on the Suwanee* (1948/1991). Even many of her articles and essays are readily available in Nora Neale Hurston readers and other anthologies.

Hurston's revival caught the wave of two powerful currents in contemporary American culture: feminism and African-Americanism. But however female and black, Hurston poses difficult problems for scholars concerned with these themes; for the Florida writer fails to fit contemporary models of right thought and proper behavior for a black woman. So, for example, while *Their Eyes Were*

Watching God focuses upon a powerful woman, that model is compromised within the text itself, and— as Deborah Plant argues convincingly— Hurston’s other writing makes an even more powerful case for the legitimacy of male authority and female submission.

Hurston’s notions of blacks and race are equally ambivalent. Although black herself, the creator of black characters, and an anthropologist of black culture, Hurston challenged the “race men” and racial prejudice of blacks as well as whites. Worse still, she was a conservative and a Republican, the antithesis of the politically correct. Indeed, her own contemporaries— Richard Wright, members of the Harlem Renaissance (the “Niggeratti,” she called them)— had as much problems with her as she with them. She did not fit their models. Nor does she fit ours. Perhaps Alice Walker took the best approach in her introduction to Hemenway’s biography: to think of Hurston purely and simply as an artist rather than as a coherent political thinker or intellectual. “This frees us,” she concluded, “to appreciate the complexity and richness of her work in the same way we can appreciate Billie Holiday’s glorious phrasing or Bessie Smith’s perfect and raunchy lyrics, without the necessity of ridiculing the former’s addiction to heroin or the latter’s excessive love of gin.”

Deborah G. Plant refuses Walker’s advice, and she has undertaken a comprehensive examination of Hurston’s thought. She turns up some interesting and important issues, themes, and facts. Plant’s revelation of the novelist’s debt to Spinoza is fine; her association of the novelist with Nietzsche through Ruth Benedict, her teacher, is both good sleuthing and a useful insight; her discovery of Hurston’s classical knowledge and appreciation of Heracles and Dionysus, for example, is also illuminating. In its main intention, however, the book falls short, lacking a consistent, coherent interpretation altogether. Thus the first chapter’s Nietzschean interpretation of inner self that launches the study doesn’t make much sense. It seems to argue that because Hurston herself followed Nietzsche that she actually is an *uebermensch*. Indeed, such sloppy connection between an interpretation or theory— whether Plant’s or Hurston’s— and reality befuddles the whole book. The theories change, the sloppiness persists.

Chapter to chapter, however, the changing theories also undermine the book. Plant goes, for example, from the Nietzscheanism of chapter one to pop or even vulgar psychology to explain Hurston’s attitude about men. Other chapters offer heavy doses of ra-

cial theorizing and a considerable amount of radical Afro-feminism along with a little Foucault, and a pervasive dose of deconstructionist, post-modernist terminology. Plant “privileges” things, “foregrounds” things, and “empowers” things (as in “empowered an angle of vision”) to the point that one stuck in the lexis of normal English can hardly know what she has in mind.

This theorizing persistently keeps Plant from letting her material speak for itself. Rather she offers evidence and then spins off paragraphs of theoretical glosses about what Hurston really means, thereby muting the power of what might have been an original insight.

One might applaud Plant’s courage in taking on such a complicated subject, but she has produced a miscellany instead of a real book or coherent monograph. The intellectual study worthy of this richly complex Southern artist, woman, and African-American remains to be written.

Florida International University

DARDEN ASBURY PYRON

Changing Tides: Twilight and Dawn in the Spanish Sea, 1763-1803. By Robert S. Weddle. (College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 1995. xv, 352 pp. Preface, acknowledgments, photographs, maps, notes, bibliography, index. \$49.50 hardcover.)

This work is the culmination of an ambitious and original project begun in 1979. Many, perhaps most, historians these days confine their writing to specialized monographs. Robert Weddle, more daringly, has put the minute detail and deep research typical of such endeavors in the service of a comprehensive vision: a three-volume history of the exploration of the Gulf of Mexico from 1500 to 1803. That the words “the Spanish Sea” as a synonym for the Gulf are used in the titles of all three, tells something of Weddle’s sympathies. He deals more lovingly with Spanish explorers than he does, for instance, with the English. During the 20 years from 1763 when the Union Jack flew in the Floridas, several Britons— “publishing travelers” Weddle calls them— wrote about their Gulf experiences. Of them Weddle has most respect for George Gauld, endorsing the verdict to be found in John Ware and Robert Rea’s biography of him.

A common theme of Weddle’s studies is that many of the mistakes and apparent follies of explorers sprang from defects beyond

their control. Chief of these was reliance on faulty maps, the results of the snail's pace development of navigational aids. Wrecking ships was a costly way to discover cartographical errors, commented Jose de Evia. Accurately fixing positions at sea was impossible before discovery of a means to determine longitude precisely. That did not happen until John Harrison perfected his chronometer in 1759, centuries after Spaniards began sailing in the Gulf.

Another reason its coasts remained inadequately explored for nearly 300 years was inhabitant hostility. Native Americans did not necessarily welcome European interlopers on their territory. Early expeditions had been hampered or annihilated. As late as 1778 Karankawas massacred Luis Andry and his crew of 13. Generally though, by the late 18th century, Indians could offer less resistance because, thanks to Europeans, their tribes had diminished or disappeared.

Hindering Spanish efficiency too was rivalry between bureaucrats like Governor Bernardo de Galvez of Louisiana and his lieutenant governor Francisco Bouligny. Weddle explains their disputes as he does much else in his convoluted story, with suitable brevity but enough detail for understanding.

Weddle's editors could have served him better. There is one modern map, but many places of significance in the text are not on it. The print on other reproduced antique maps is too small. If its lettering cannot be read, even with a magnifying glass, a map merits exclusion.

Weddle ably details how Spain pursued several missions in the late 18th century: improve trade; encourage enlightenment activity; foster cartography; fight several wars with European powers. It was much and, finally, too much. By 1803 the only land on the Spanish sea belonging to Spain was the eastern half of Cuba.

Auburn University

ROBIN F. A. FABEL

The French Experience in Louisiana. Edited by Glenn R. Conrad. *The Louisiana Bicentennial Series in Louisiana History.* Volume I. (Lafayette: University of Southwestern Louisiana and the Center for Louisiana Studies, 1995. viii, 666 pp. About the series, introduction to Volume I, index. \$40.00 cloth.)

This is the debut volume of a 19-part series designed to commemorate the Louisiana Purchase of 1803, a milestone whose up-

coming bicentennial will be marked by numerous historically-related events. Many of these events will likely involve the Center for Louisiana Studies. Located at the University of Southwestern Louisiana, the Center serves as publication headquarters and secretariat for the Louisiana Historical Association while it also plays an important role in generally encouraging the historical study of the lower Mississippi valley. It is fitting, then, that the Center has undertaken the editing and publication of this massive set of previously published articles, essays, and book chapters dealing with the history of Louisiana. It is anticipated that 19 projected volumes will cover the chronological time span from French Louisiana to the modern history of the state. The entire series, edited by the distinguished Louisiana historian Glenn R. Conrad, has benefited from editorial policies and selection criteria devised by an eminent board of advisors.

This initial volume in the series deals with the history of French Louisiana from the era of discovery and exploration to the transfer to Spain in the 1760s. It consists of 50 historical articles, essays, or sections of books dealing with French colonial policy, immigration to the province, Africans and slavery, Native Americans, military history, governmental administration, economic development, society, law, religion. As such, it represents a respectable sampling of important historians who have published on French Louisiana during the years since World War II. Among those included are Methé Allain, Carl A. Brasseaux, John G. Clark, Glenn R. Conrad, Michael J. Foret, Marcel Giraud, Jay Higginbotham, Donald J. Lemieux, Jerry A. Michelle, Vaughan Baker Simpson, Charles E. O'Neill, Daniel H. Usner, Jr., and Samuel Wilson, Jr.

This volume is divided into nine sections that cluster the essays into general topical areas. The first part deals with colonial policy. It contains essays about Colbert, LaSalle, and the Comte de Pontchartrain, in addition to examining motivations for founding the colony. The second section examines the European settler groups who came to Louisiana, highlighting articles dealing with the transport of convicts, German and Alsatian emigration, and the motivations for French settlement. An additional two sections respectively develop analyses of Native Americans, the African community and slave policy, while parts five and six deal with the province's governmental administration and military establishment. The final three sections survey the legal structure and religion, economic development, and role of Louisiana in mid-18th century European colonial rivalry.

The presentation of 50 selections about French Louisiana gives the volume remarkable scope and coverage, especially considering the natural limitations on comprehensiveness experienced by any book which is a compilation of essays. This is because the careful selection and well-ordered presentation of the various articles permit an easy flow of topics from essay to essay. This will reward the efforts of even a beginning reader on the subject. Although there is nothing to criticize in this volume, one cautionary statement about it is in order for the inexperienced reader. Some of the articles included date back several decades. Although they are historiographical classics, they do not represent the latest versions of scholarship on either topic. Hence, readers new to the subject should not mistake some of the articles, all of which exist as seminal contributions to the literature, as being the latest scholarly word. All in all, this volume is an excellent beginning to a series that holds tremendous potential for highlighting the celebration of both the Louisiana Purchase and the history of the State of Louisiana.

Austin College

LIGHT TOWNSEND CUMMINS

The Caribbean Legion: Patriots, Politicians, Soldiers of Fortune, 1946-1950. By Charles D. Ameringer. (University Park: Pennsylvania State University Press, 1995. 180 pp. Acknowledgments, list of abbreviations, introduction, map, figures, appendices, notes, selected bibliography, index. \$35.00 cloth, \$15.95 paper.)

Of the many unusual and wonderful tales of political intrigue and adventure in the Caribbean and Central America, there are few that can compare with the Caribbean Legion, a group of pro-democratic Caribbean and Central American exiles during the early years of the Cold War.

Lucidly written and containing a wealth of information from national archives, State Department correspondence, private correspondence and personal interviews, *The Caribbean Legion: Patriots, Politicians, Soldiers of Fortune, 1946-1950*, examines the genesis and demise of the mythical Caribbean Legion.

Franklin D. Roosevelt's "Good Neighbor Policy" initiated a most welcomed period in United States–Latin American relations. Ironically, this period was marked by the rise of satraps such as Rafael Trujillo, Tiburcio Carías Andino, and Anastasio Somoza.

Encouraged by Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs Spruille Braden's message that the principle of non-intervention should not prevent the United States from fulfilling its responsibilities on behalf of free elections and human rights, Caribbean and Central American exiles began to organize military operations to bring democracy and social justice to the region. Thus the birth of an army of exiles under the banner of the Caribbean Legion.

The first chapter assesses the impact of the "Braden Corollary" in the Dominican Republic. Braden's stance in support of democracy encouraged the exile of the Dominican general, Juan Rodríguez García, to finance expeditions against Trujillo.

The second chapter provides a detailed examination of the Cayo Confites fiasco. In 1947, Dominican exiles in Cuba and their Cuban allies established themselves at Cayo Confites on the north-east coast of Cuba for the purpose of invading the Dominican Republic. The author contends that the invasion came close to being carried out had it not been for a failure in logistics and a divided leadership. These two factors, coupled with American pressure on President Ramón Grau, forced the Cuban military to intervene and disband the would-be invaders.

The Caribbean Legion's activities in Costa Rica serve as the focus for chapter two. Guatemalan president Rafael Arévalo's obsession with the elimination of Nicaraguan dictator Anastasio Somoza from the region, facilitated the Caribbean Pact, an alliance dedicated to the overthrow of dictatorships in the region with General Rodríguez as commander-in-chief. Elements of the Caribbean Legion participated in Pepe Figueres' 1948 successful democratic uprising in exchange for his help against Somoza and Trujillo, but Arévalo's dream of eliminating dictatorship did not materialize. Aware that Figueres had been one of the signatories of the pact and cognizant that the legionnaires were training in Costa Rica, Somoza's troops invaded the tiny Central American nation in December, 1948. Somoza's invasion forced the Organization of American States to settle the crisis. Ameringer asserts that the OAS saved Figueres' fledgling democracy but at the cost of expelling the Caribbean Legion from Costa Rican soil.

Following his withdrawal from Costa Rica, General Rodríguez set his sight on liberating his homeland from his nemesis, "El Generalísimo." Rodríguez's quest is the key to chapter 3, which centers on the Luperón raid, an ill-fated airborne invasion of the Domini-

can Republic. This Caribbean Legion's last effort to overthrow Trujillo was the classical example of "Murphy's Law." In June, 1949, a Catalina seaplane, carrying a group of eight Dominicans, three Nicaraguans and three Americans landed at Luperón. After their landing, they became confused in the dark, shot at each other, and retreated to the plane. The Catalina, however, became stuck on a sandbar and was blown to pieces by a Dominican gunboat.

The Luperón fiasco serves as the point of departure for the last chapter. In it, Ameringer analyzes the Caribbean Legion's demise. The author partially blames its failure on the zealous anti-communist policy of John Foster Dulles, who preferred "safe" tyrants to nationalistic democrats.

Professor Ameringer should be commended for such an exhaustively researched and provocative work. The book serves as a useful tool in interpreting post-World War II American diplomatic policy in the Caribbean and Central America, and is of inestimable value for those interested in the Caribbean Legion.

University of Central Florida

JOSE B. FERNANDEZ

Previous Convictions: A Journey Through the 1950s. By Nora Sayre. (New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 1994. 462 pp. Acknowledgments, prelude, photographs, notes, selected bibliography, index, about the author. \$37.95 cloth.)

Nora Sayre's journey through the 1950s was first class travel. Her formative years were a time of intellectual and literary privilege: her parents were writers for the *New Yorker*, John O'Hara was her godfather, and Dr. Benjamin Spock was her pediatrician. Her material is engaging; her writing is a marvel: intricate in structure, rich in detail, and energetic in rhythm (a lot of semicolons; it would sound vigorous and fast-paced if read aloud). Readers who think they remember the fifties will find their consciousness raised and their focus narrowed. Proclaiming that the "national convulsions" of the fifties were concerned with and motivated by people who came of age in the twenties and thirties, and were precursors of the even more dramatic turbulence of the sixties, she patterns the material like a film, moving among decades according to an intrinsic order. Every anecdote is based on her own experience or a personal interview, buttressed by published history or contempo-

rary documentation. At the core of the narrative are three units called "Documentaries," meticulously researched accounts of major "events" of the fifties: "The Loyalty Oath at Berkeley," "The Autherine Lucy Case," and "Invading *The New York Times*."

The cast of this dynamic, sophisticated memoir is a pantheon of leftist writers, performers, critics of art and society, and aesthetes of all hue and stripe, and they have one thing in common: they belong to what Sayre describes broadly and simply as "the Left." The cynosure of their progression through the decades is the passion most of them suffered at the hands of the House un-American Activities Committee and Senator Joseph McCarthy in the forties and fifties. These events and personalities are characterized by mystery, ambivalence, and irony: Communist writers who become wealthy in Hollywood, some who would go to prison rather than identify associates, others who would implicate friends merely to publicize the scope of leftist sympathy in the community. Some were rich enough not to suffer economic deprivation, but many did, and took menial jobs to keep their families together. Some went abroad and continued to write using pseudonyms.

Merciless in its assault on conservative standard-bearers and hard-edged in its social and political assumptions, the writing is not without sympathy and sentiment, particularly toward aging left wing activists. In the late fifties, for example, Sayre found herself living in London, attending a regular salon comprised largely of American writers deprived of their passports. These blacklisted Americans and their British socialist companions spent every Sunday talking, laughing, remembering, and scoffing (a favored target: Richard Nixon). It was here that Sayre recognized that "the old American Left was an intimate extended family." They had endured persecution, agonized over internecine ideological conflicts, and suffered ultimate betrayal by their Soviet model: Krushchev's public revelation of Stalin's atrocious history shocked and dismayed them. The lucidity of Sayre's prose clarifies their *naveté* and disillusionment, and in this section, entitled "Blacklist in Exile," she offers a poignant summation of the American leftist ethos of the fifties which parallels her own coming of age. Many of the narrative strains come together here, and many of the political and philosophical loose ends are gathered.

These political expatriates were proud of their radical histories, even of their party membership, and they were pleased that at least some of their public work had reflected their beliefs. They re-

joined in having advanced the causes of labor, women, minorities, and social change, and they accepted the consequences of their errant allegiances: imprisonment or expulsion. They were not ashamed to be called Communists, but they felt hurt, angry, and horribly stigmatized to have been considered un-American.

University of Central Florida

HARRY SMITH

The South as an American Problem. Edited by Larry J. Griffin and Don H. Doyle. (Athens and London: University of Georgia Press, 1995. vi, 310 pp. Preface, introduction, contributors, bibliography, index. \$29.95 cloth.)

Edited volumes that search for an overarching theme almost invariably fall short of the promise, and this one is no exception. It bears the additional burden of comparison to a classic earlier work. *The South as an American Problem* is the product of eleven scholars and one journalist; nine are on the faculty at Vanderbilt University, and John Egerton, the journalist, also lives in Nashville. The editors acknowledge the surface resemblance to the Twelve Southerners' *I'll Take My Stand: An Agrarian Manifesto* (1930), also the progeny of a dozen writers more or less affiliated with Vanderbilt, but add that it was "purely accidental that this collection of essays also contains twelve authors" (3).

This comparison aside, this work contains some fine individual essays. Whereas the Agrarians proclaimed their hostility to modernity and northern condescension, this volume takes a different and more sophisticated approach: the long-lived perception of the South as a special problem for the rest of the United States.

Sociologist and political scientist Larry J. Griffin maintains in the opening essay that while it is certainly true that there has been an "oppositional" South of slavery, racism, poverty, and cultural barrenness, there is also the "American" South that gave us the Declaration of Independence, Coca-Cola, some of our finest presidents, and a crop—cotton—that enhanced the American economy for decades before the Civil War. Historian David Carlton questions this proposition of an un-American South, noting that racism, worker exploitation, and modern spiritual rootlessness are American, not just southern, ills. Historian Joyce Chaplin, in "Climate and Southern Pessimism: The Natural History of an Idea, 1500-

1800," notes that prior to the 19th century southerners did not see their region's hot climate or environment as a detriment.

Historian Jimmie Lewis Franklin contributes a graceful essay on the shared experiences of black and white southerners. According to historian James Oakes, nothing serves better than slavery to illustrate the problem of the fundamental American paradox of humans owning other humans while simultaneously voicing Jeffersonian liberal ideals of human rights and equality. Fellow historian Don Doyle shifts the focus away from the slave, arguing that 19th-century white Americans saw slavery, secession, and Reconstruction as problems central to themselves, not the slaves.

Economist Robert Margo takes on the old chestnut of the South as a perennial American economic problem, arguing that the problem was not the South's peculiar institution. The real villain was the unprecedented economic hit the South took in the war.

English professor Michael Kreyling tackles the uneasy position of race in the work of the dean of southern literary scholars, Louis D. Rubin, Jr. Eric Sundquist's "Blues for Atticus Finch: *Scottsboro, Brown, and Harper Lee*," an imaginative study of a significant piece of fiction to illuminate the facts of an era.

Lawyer and historian James W. Ely, Jr., deftly traces the role of the federal government in American race relations from 1890-1965. By the sixties, with the death of legalized segregation, the South no longer stood out as a national pariah. Hugh Davis Graham challenges the argument of "a perennially benighted and racist South" (148).

The editors saved the best for last. Once again a journalist-historian has outflanked the academics (as Bruce Catton did a generation ago). The final essay, John Egerton's "The End of the South as a Problem," argues that since the South has now largely overcome its tortured history of poverty, racism, and subordination in the national arena, it may have the "collective qualities of character and personality arising from its history" (273) to help steer the rest of the country through the social, political, and economic problems that now beset us as a whole. This theme of the redemptive power of a long-suffering South has been articulated by both C. Vann Woodward and Arnold Toynbee, but rarely in prose as eloquent as Egerton's.

Beyond Chaplin's essay, there is little in the way of original research here. Rather, the authors have utilized well-plowed currents

of the past to illuminate the persistent perception of the South as a deviant minority. Individual scholars will surely disagree with some of the conclusions here, and readers of this journal will find generalizations about the South as a whole that do not always apply to Florida. Nonetheless, most of these modern twelve have performed well.

Floyd College

WILLIAM F. MUGLESTON

Slavery and the Founders: Race and Liberty in the Age of Jefferson. By Paul Finkelman. (Armonk, NY and London: M.E. Sharpe, 1996. xi, 227 pp. Preface, notes, bibliography, index, about the author. \$55 hardcover, \$19.95 paper.)

In his critical and illuminating study, Paul Finkelman contends and proves that slavery was a central issue in the early years of the new republic. As he points out, the most crucial theme of this study was the unwillingness and refusal of the founding fathers to acknowledge that their rhetoric and lip service to liberty and equality was inconsistent with their continuation, maintenance, and, at times, promotion of slavery. While many historians have argued that this first generation of Americans was well on its way to eradicating slavery, Finkelman rightly asserts that this was not the case in several of the most crucial instances: the Constitutional Convention, the Northwest Ordinance of 1787 and the Fugitive Slave Law of 1793. After examining these broader areas, he narrows his critique to the obvious contradictions of the "Father of Liberty," Thomas Jefferson, and the failure of Jeffersonian biographers to acknowledge these contradictions.

Finkelman agrees with William Lloyd Garrison that the Constitution was a "Covenant with Death," and an "Agreement with Hell" (ix). He asserts that the motivations behind many of the compromises made during the Constitutional Convention were done to ensure a stronger government that protected property, which, of course, included slavery. Finkelman points out that the divisions over the issue of slavery were not always along sectional lines nor was the opposition to it always for moral reasons; rather, the reasons were economic and political. After all, various sections of the country had a stake in slavery which might have included: external or internal slave trading, the transportation of products made by slave labor, and assurances that property taxes and political repre-

sentation would be accordingly determined. Thus, as Finkelman points out, the 3/5ths compromise, the fugitive slave clause, and various other agreements seared slavery, as an institution, into the federal document that offered limited government to ensure protection of liberty.

In two other instances, the Northwest Ordinance of 1787 and the fugitive slave clause, Finkelman continues his indictment of the founding fathers and reveals the continuing and pervasive tension between liberty and slavery with the latter almost always prevailing over the former. Despite the Northwest Ordinance of 1787's blanket ban on slavery in the Northwest territory, the territories, and later states, of Illinois and Indiana continued to promote slavery for more than half a century after the ordinance was passed.

The fugitive slave clause and the Fugitive Slave Law of 1793 also further Finkelman's argument. When in 1793 the fugitive slave clause was finally interpreted and implemented, Congress gave almost complete power and authority to individuals in pursuit of fugitive slaves. As Finkelman points out, no one questioned the constitutionality of this legislation because the Jeffersonians were the ones most likely to do so and they were completely committed to slavery.

The last two chapters reveal the inconsistencies of the "Father of Liberty," Thomas Jefferson, and his biographers. According to Finkelman, despite what many authors have claimed, Jefferson was not simply a man of his time, an enlightened leader who did all he could to eliminate or lessen slavery's hold on the new republic; rather, Jefferson was a slaveowner who remained committed to slavery throughout his life. While there were times he flirted with the rhetoric of emancipation, his personal and public actions never followed suit. Finkelman holds Jefferson exceptionally accountable for several reasons. The most obvious reason, of course, was his public and private writings extolling the virtues of liberty and equality. However, in dealing with blacks, free or enslaved, these ideals were compromised. Moreover, when compared to others who recognized the inconsistencies of maintaining slavery in a virtuous republic, such as George Washington and lesser renowned men, Jefferson appears less than enlightened.

Slavery and the Founders is a well-researched study that forces its reader to reexamine the relationship the early republic and its founders had with the troubling issue of slavery. It will serve any

American historian well to examine this book and ask Finkelman's probing questions.

University of Central Florida

PATRICIA L. FARLESS

Davis and Lee at War. By Steven E. Woodworth. (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 1995. xiii, 409 pp. Preface, acknowledgments, illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$29.95.)

Jefferson Davis should have been a great president and a superb commander-in-chief. He was neither. The roots of his failure lay in the impossible position of leader of a confederation and in major flaws in Davis' character.

In this excellent but unfortunately mistitled book, Steven Woodworth examines meticulously the relationships between Davis and all of the field commanders in Virginia. Robert E. Lee is the only one with whom the president's relations remained cordial. On the other side of the coin, Davis' "spectacularly" low opinion of General "Stonewall" Jackson was, in Woodworth's view, the nadir of Davis' conduct as a commander-in-chief.

The first half of this work is a blow-by-blow account of Davis' associations with generals P. G. T. Beauregard, Joseph E. Johnston, and others who had military responsibility for the Eastern theater in the first year of the Civil War. A dark image emerges from beneath the traditional moonlight-and-magnolia portrait painted by sentimentalists.

Everything is negative. Beauregard's "flamboyant ways" (74) quickly put him at odds with the conservative-minded Davis; Johnston "would make a career in this war of deprecating show-down battles that risked all for a chance of victory" (117); James Longstreet "always acted as if he knew more than the others around him" and was "best not left to his own devices" (114, 140).

Davis' first seven months as a commander-in-chief proved a total failure in the East. Then circumstances led to the necessary elevation of Lee to head the Army of Northern Virginia. Lee would remain a singular individual in the Confederate chain of command because his "military acumen exceeded the president's" (330).

Lee quickly hurled back a Union army pounding at Richmond's gates; he sent a second enemy force skedaddling back to Washington. Barely three months after taking command, Lee was continuing his offensive with a September, 1862 Northern invasion that could have ended the war with victory for the South.

Throughout the exciting Lee era, however, the general and his president saw the contest from strikingly opposite viewpoints. Davis preferred a defensive posture. He believed that the Confederacy could win simply by not losing. The president “would support offensive action to hasten victory, but not if it meant gambling away the Confederacy’s certainty of independence through patient endurance” (65).

Lee did not support that policy. He was “prepared to accept enormous risks” to achieve “crushing victory” (157, 214). The South must attack while it had the strength. It could not wage a prolonged contest with its limited resources.

How Davis and Lee worked together harmoniously for as long as they did is the central focus of Woodworth’s study. Powerful assertions are sprinkled from cover to cover and will provoke at the least reflection and at the most controversy. An example or two will suffice.

In April, 1861, Lee “struggled with his conscience” whether to remain with the Union or go with his native state. “His conscience lost,” Woodworth declares (17). The weight of evidence points to Lee’s decision being a natural one probably made at birth.

Woodworth takes issue with modern writers by claiming that the 1862 Confederate advance into Maryland was a full-blown invasion and not merely a raid. The battle of Gettysburg the following year was “an all-out-end-the-war gamble” (239).

To the author’s credit, he makes sweeping use of wartime correspondence—especially as found in the voluminous *Official Records*. On the other hand, footnote references to such secondary sources as Hudson Strode and Alan Nolan are disquieting.

This is a book that both provides information and stimulates thinking. It belongs on the shelf of any serious student of Civil War strategy..

*Virginia Polytechnic Institute
and State University*

JAMES I. ROBERTSON, JR.

Southern Women’s Writings: Colonial to Contemporary. Edited by Mary Louise Weaks and Carolyn Perry. (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 1995. xiv, 417 pp. Preface, selected bibliography, credits, index. \$49.95 cloth, \$24.95 paper.)

In the 1780s South Carolinian Eliza Wilkinson railed against a society where men “won’t even allow us the liberty of thought,”

which “is all I want” (26). Two centuries later Alabama-born Mab Segrest lived openly in the South as a lesbian and called for “a Women’s Literature of Wholeness” rising out of “our profound respect for female solitude and selfhood” (362). In the 1830s Fanny Kemble described black women she confronted on her husband’s Georgia plantation as having taste “both barbarous and ludicrous” and hoped that their imitation of white dress “might be made an instrument in converting them, outwardly at any rate, to something like civilisation” [sic] (53).

Wilkinson, Segrest, and Kemble, along with the 31 other individuals included in Mary Louise Weaks and Carolyn Perry’s anthology, have in common that they are women writers who spent some portion of their lives in the South. The editors also try to claim for them a commonality in what they write about, suggesting that their works “comprise those qualities and themes that make the South distinct from other American regions” (xii). They acknowledge that some of their selections, notably Kemble, a British actress who lived only a few years in Georgia, and Leigh Allison Wilson, who was Southern born but writes most frequently about New York, are “boundary testers” for the category Southern women writers. They do not convincingly establish that even those women who are clearly within the boundary share qualities and themes. Nevertheless, in light of the ubiquitous assumption of Southern distinctiveness, this is a useful introduction to women writers who have some association with the region.

Weaks and Perry divide the book into five chronological periods: The Antebellum South, the Civil War South, The Postbellum South, The Modern South and The Contemporary South. They provide an overview of each period and a brief introduction of the authors selected. Most of the early selections are letters, essays or autobiography. The postbellum South is represented primarily by fiction, although some essays are included as well. Almost half of the antebellum authors were from South Carolina; women from Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi make up the majority of the postbellum group.

This book can be a useful addition to courses in both Southern and women’s literature and history. However, scholars in both disciplines are likely to find it a frustrating source. This is at best an introduction to these 34 Southern women writers whose work must be represented by short selections from longer works. Ten pages from the fiction of Flannery O’Connor and only half as much from

Alice Walker reveals little of the power of these writers. Historians of the South may find the work useful in establishing the enormous change in the lives of the region's women over the last two centuries but will find limited analysis of how and why changes have occurred. Despite its limitations, those seeking a short introduction to Southern women writers will find this work a good choice.

Oregon State University

BESS BEATTY

Leander Perez: Boss of the Delta. By Glen Jeansonne. (Lafayette: Center for Louisiana Studies, 1995. xxiii, 459 pp. Acknowledgments to second edition, preface to second edition, preface to original edition, photographs, afterword, essay on additional sources, notes, bibliography, index. \$25.00 paper.)

This second edition of the biography of Louisiana's arch segregationist, Leander H. Perez (1891-1969) adds a chapter describing the collapse of the family dynasty in its second generation after the old man had set up his two sons as district attorney and commission council president, respectively, of Plaquemines Parish. The rest of the book is a reprint of the original biography published in 1977 by Louisiana State University Press.

Leander Perez's notoriety first surfaced on the regional and national scene in 1948 with his support of Dixiecrat presidential candidate, Strom Thurmond. Before that he was the despotic boss of tiny (population less than 25,000), oil- and sulphur-rich Plaquemines Parish south of New Orleans on the Gulf Coast. In a state infamous for its corruption and political machinations, Perez stood out. He ruled his small domain with the total control of a dictator. He influenced state government in Baton Rouge, initially supported Huey Long but later turned against his brother Earl, and remained impervious to periodic efforts to challenge his control at home. He never sought statewide office. Apparently he was satisfied to use his secure parish base to protect and influence events further afield.

Perez's racism, antisemitism and anticommunism were vitriolic. His opposition to Truman in 1948 resulted from the president's efforts to desegregate the armed forces and the civil rights plank of the Democratic National Convention. *Brown vs. Board of Education* in 1954 proved to him the communist domination of the United States Supreme Court. His opposition to school desegrega-

tion in New Orleans led to his excommunication by the Roman Catholic archbishop of New Orleans. Subsequently he organized private schools for white children in Plaquemines Parish to avoid desegregation there. He even went so far as to establish a detention center in a snake-infested swamp in case freedom riders dared enter his domain.

In the 1960s, the attacks continued on blacks, "Zionist Jews," the Kennedys and Lyndon Johnson. Perez, a millionaire from his oil and sulphur concessions in Plaquemines, helped fund White Citizens' Councils, Lester Maddox, and George Wallace's American Party in 1968. He received national media attention when Dan Rather and CBS interviewed him. On national television, his views became, if possible, even more extreme. William F. Buckley concluded that Perez's ignorance was staggering and that "the best thing that Judge Perez could do for the cause of states' rights is to shut up" (337).

Until his death, Perez controlled his parish tightly. The author compares him to the elder Richard Daley in Chicago. From 1919 to 1969, candidates with his support consistently won 85 to 90 percent of the votes. Even American Party candidate Wallace in 1968 won 78 percent. Except to his family and sycophantic supporters, however, Perez was a mean and nasty man. Yet his wealth and power were such that while the Longs could stop him on the state level, no one successfully challenged him at home.

One puzzles at the re-publication of this presumably out-of-print book. The additional chapter does not warrant it. Perez's extremist efforts on the regional or national level placed him secondary to more major political players. He remains largely a local and perhaps state figure, still a historical embarrassment on the American scene.

University of North Florida

JAMES B. CROOKS

Cities of Light and Heat: Domesticating Gas and Electricity in Urban America. By Mark H. Rose. (University Park: Pennsylvania State University Press, 1995. xviii, 229 pp. Illustrations, tables, bibliographic essay, index. \$34.50.)

This able and informing book can be studied with profit by at least three types of readers. First, specialists in the history of technology will be stimulated by the methodological perspectives that it

advances. In developing the thesis underlying *Cities of Light and Heat*— a thesis that will become apparent by the end of this review— Rose makes effective use of social constructivism, a heuristic approach positing that technological outcomes are determined by social and economic forces. This concept has been employed increasingly in recent years by historians of technology who are opposed to the idea of “cultural lag” formulated by William F. Ogburn: that social and economic developments respond and conform, belatedly, to the forward march of technological progress.

Second, even if they do not wish to pursue Rose’s methodology, scholars who specialize in more traditional historical fields, or who have a generalist orientation, will benefit from examining the way in which he skillfully connects technological innovations to social and cultural values. These scholars should be particularly interested, for example, in the way in which Rose identifies people whom he calls “agents of diffusion.” Such persons, mostly obscure figures to whom historians have paid little or no attention, have a highly developed sense of how to capitalize on possibilities opened up by new technologies by finding appropriate markets, learning how to calculate rates and costs, and convincing prospective customers to grasp the opportunities that such technologies provide.

Much of Rose’s book focuses on the contrasting experiences of two urban centers— Denver and Kansas City— in embracing the possibilities of new sources of energy— electricity and natural gas— in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. In a series of deftly written chapters, Rose demonstrates how Henry L. Doherty, a developer of utilities in Denver, proved more adept in exploiting the business potential of electricity and natural gas than J. Ogden Armour and other entrepreneurs did in Kansas City. Doherty’s success was based on his “increased sophistication in making connections between rates, politics, and urban growth,” establishing elaborate training programs for salesman and other employees, and launching effective programs of consumer education to advertise and market new appliances. Armour and his associates, by contrast, showed a lack of political savvy, made costly blunders in calculating rates, neglected to spend money on advertising, and failed to educate their employees to be effective “agents of diffusion.” Rose also shows how Doherty’s Cities Service Company became a huge national concern that acquired and successfully operated failed public utilities in places like Kansas City, and how shrewd developers, such as J. C. Nichols, who built a pioneering residential project and

shopping plaza in Kansas City, ultimately learned how to make substantial profits by adapting electricity and gas to the needs of consumers and home-buyers who were deeply imbued with traditional middle-class values.

One of the major requirements for success in running public utilities, as Rose demonstrates, was capitalizing upon values associated with gender roles, especially the desire of women for cleanliness, hygiene, comfort, security, aesthetic appearance, and convenience. He explains, for example, how “advertisements for gas-fired home furnaces stressed the obligation of men to shape a healthful environment for members of their families”; how the use of coal was stigmatized by creating feelings of guilt among men who spent their days in clean, gas-heated offices while their wives did “janitor or stoker work at home” coping with dust from coal-fired stoves and shoveling coal into furnace grates; how women were attracted to sanitary and well-lit establishments like an ultra-modern grocery store that Nichols helped build in a Kansas City shopping plaza; how kitchens were crammed with electrical and gas appliances to cater to the convenience and aesthetic desire of females; and how the telephone became “an antimodern device” by being appropriated by housewives as a means of “widening, deepening, and extending relationships.” As Rose states, “it was women . . . who had to be sold on specific features of appliances.”

In the final chapters of his book, Rose discusses broad national trends in the consumption and utilization of electricity and gas as these sources of energy were exploited more and more lavishly in a quest for “environmental control” in homes that were uniformly heated, centrally air-conditioned, and compulsively sanitized. By the 1970s, however, a day of reckoning had come. Dwindling resources and inability to achieve additional efficiency in generating power at ever-lessening cost led to rising prices, decreased consumption, and demands for energy conservation. Ideas and attitudes that had been shaped for generations by agents of diffusion who had preached a rhetoric of comfort, cleanliness, and convenience remained as strong as ever, but were less and less congruent with the economic and technological realities of the late 20th century.

Thus we come to the third type of reader who should carefully consider Rose’s book and take heed to its sobering conclusions: the great body of citizens and consumers who have too eagerly and uncritically accepted the message preached by agents of diffusion for

more than a century since the large-scale production of electricity and natural gas first began to appear on the American scene. Implicit in the final chapters of *Cities of Light and Heat* is the need to renegotiate the terms and expectations governing energy usage at a time when an abundance of light and heat can no longer be taken for granted. "Historians have long recognized that scientists and engineers were not the all-powerful agents depicted by their early promoters," Rose states in one arresting passage. His careful, well-documented study is an illuminating commentary on this basic underlying point.

Auburn University

W. DAVID LEWIS

The Age of the Gunfighter: Men and Weapons on the Frontier, 1840-1900.

By Joseph B. Rosa. (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1995. 192 pp. Acknowledgments, introduction, photographs, bibliography, index. \$19.95 paper.)

Cowboy movies and the novels of Zane Grey, Max Brand and Louis L'Amour have made America's Wild West a land of giants, some good, some evil, a few in-between. In *The Age of the Gunfighter* author Joseph B. Rosa concentrates on a mythic figure, often glorified in the literature of the American West. Not surprisingly, he places the gunfighter in the category of bad men.

"Much of the present-day adulation heaped upon a number of noted individuals reflects a cinematic rather than an historical view," Rosa, an author who lives in England, writes. "Some were admired for specific acts or because they fitted the public's idea of what a 'frontier desperado' or 'civilizer' should be. For beneath the heroic facade there lurked the stark fact that they were all killers, whether by choice or by provocation. And to suggest that they fought fair in the context of today's sense of fair play is erroneous."

In this handsome book, his fourth published by the University of Oklahoma Press on the American West, Rosa works largely from contemporary sources to try to portray the gunfighter as he appeared to the pioneers of his time. He writes: "... we intend to depict the gunfighter's role in society; its reaction to him; how he was accepted or rejected, rather than the time-warp image so beloved by film makers and novelists." Rosa presents quite a rogue's gallery, Billy the Kid, Jesse James, Butch Cassidy and many others.

Florida readers will be interested in his account of the capture of the Texas desperado John Wesley Hardin, who was “finally cornered on a train at Pensacola, Florida, by the Texas Rangers.” Hardin, who boasted of 40 notches on his gun, is described as a “wizard with a six-shooter.” Still, writes Rosa, he seldom engaged in face-to-face conflict, preferring instead to ambush his foes or to devise “devious schemes to get the drop on any opponent.”

The Age of the Gunfighter is a large-format coffee-table book, 10 by 13 inches. It is richly illustrated by historical black and white photographs, reproductions of full color paintings by such noted artists as N. C. Wyeth, Frederic Remington and Olaf Selter, and contemporary color photos of skillfully assembled groupings of the weapons used by both lawbreaker and lawman. The guns depicted in the two-page spreads are from the Gene Autry Western Heritage Museum and the Buffalo Bill Historical Center.

One gun layout displays ten Colt firearms and includes a discussion of whether or not Wyatt Earp carried a long-barreled “Buntline Special,” a Colt weapon Ned Buntline, whose real name was E. Z. C. Judson, is reported to have given to Earp and Bat Masterson. Rosa states there is no conclusive evidence that Earp even knew Buntline, who wrote both fiction and nonfiction about his Second Seminole War experiences in South Florida.

Rosa’s popular history follows the gunfighter from the Kansas-Missouri conflicts on out to the range wars farther west, then to the growth of cowtowns and finally to arrival of law and order when the gavel of the “hanging judge” Isaac Parker began to replace the six-shooter. It is an entertaining volume which should appeal primarily to readers interested in the Old West and, because of its impressive picture layouts, to gun collectors.

Lighthouse Point, FL

STUART B. MCIVER

BOOK NOTES

Originally published in 1988 by the Donning Company of Norfolk, Virginia, and reviewed in the *Quarterly* by Rodney E. Dillon, Jr. (Vol. LXVII, October, 1989), Raymond Arsenault's *St. Petersburg and the Florida Dream, 1888-1950* has just been released in a new edition by the University Press of Florida. The book chronicles the early history of St. Petersburg and the lower Pinellas Peninsula from the time of its pre-Columbian inhabitants to modern times. It features the arrival of the railroad, the influx of tin-can tourists after World War I, and the beginnings of the Sunbelt phenomenon at mid-20th century. It is available in selected book stores and from the University Press of Florida, 15 NW 15th Street, Gainesville, FL 32611-2079 The price is \$34.95.

Only a Newspaper Guy: The Life and Times of Hampton Dunn was compiled and published by the Citrus County Historical Society to honor one of the county's most prominent citizens. A longtime member and past president of the Society, author of 20 books on Florida, and perpetual promoter of the state and its history, Hampton Dunn is well-known throughout the state as well as in the small county from which he roamed but never forgot. The Citrus County Historical Society emphasizes that the book has no author. Although written by a single individual, the work "has been a cooperative effort of the entire Citrus County Historical Society" whose members stand "in awe of what [Hampton Dunn] has accomplished in just one lifetime." *Only a Newspaper Guy* may be purchased at the Old Courthouse, Inverness, or at the Society's Coastal Heritage Museum, 532 Citrus Avenue, Crystal River. It may also be ordered from the Citrus County Historical Society, The Old Courthouse, Inverness, Florida, 34450. The mail order price is \$15.90 plus \$4.50 for shipping and handling.

Florida Cracker Tales: Storks of Life in "the good old days" When Pioneers Settled Florida was written by Teresa E. Stein and published by Placid Publishing House, Lake Placid, Florida. It is highly recommended by a recognized authority on storytelling. Society member and renowned author Patrick Smith writes that "*Florida Cracker Tales* is an excellent book. [The] selection of information is outstanding,

and [the] writing style brings it to life and captivates the reader. There is not a dull moment in the book. It is a gem of Florida tales and information." *Florida Cracker Tales* is available from Placid Publishing House, 3149 Placid View Drive, Lake Placid, FL 33582. The price is \$19.95 plus \$2.50 for shipping and handling.

Sebring: The Official History of America's Great Sports Car Race was written by Ken Breslauer with a foreword by Dan Gurney. Beautifully illustrated with numerous color photographs, the book tells the story of sports car racing from the days "before Sebring" to the present. Eleven appendices furnish all the details one could wish to know about the sport and the Sebring raceway. An extensive bibliography is included. The book is available from David Bull Publishing, 115 Mt. Auburn Street, Cambridge, MA 02138-5724, or may be ordered by telephone at 1-800-831-1758. The price is \$79.95 plus \$4.95 for shipping and handling.

Marion Spjut Gilliland's *The Calusa Indians of Florida* tells the story of some of Florida's inhabitants at the time of the first European contact in a style which will appeal to young readers. The narrative is profusely illustrated by photographs of artifacts which have been reclaimed by archaeologists as well as excellent drawings by Cynthia G. Catlin. *The Calusa Indians of Florida* may be ordered from the author at 3031 SW 70th Lane, Gainesville, FL 32608-5216. The price is \$7.95.

Dearest Daughter and Popsy Wells: Two Artists Named Sawyer by Marion Spjut Gilliland is a fast moving biography of Wells Sawyer with a brief account of his daughter, Helen. The narrative follows Sawyer through his activities in Washington, on Wall Street, in Spain, and in Mexico. But, it will be most interesting to *Quarterly* readers for its account of Sawyer's residence in Tarpon Springs around the turn of the 20th century and the last 20 years of his life which were spent at Sarasota where both he and his daughter became prominent in the local art community. In 1955 he was featured in *What to See and Do in Sarasota*. The occasion was his one-man art show at the Sarasota Art Association which included a reception celebrating his 91st birthday. He died in 1960 at age 97, but his last one-man exhibition was held in the University of Florida Galleries from May through July 1985. His daughter, Helen, was in attendance. The book is available from the author at 3031 SW 70th Lane, Gainesville, FL 32608-5216. The price is \$24.95 plus \$1.50 tax.

Generally acclaimed as one of the best of the numerous autobiographical accounts written in the late 19th century by generals and others who had participated in the Civil War, the *Personal Memoirs of U. S. Grant* has a story of its own. Financially embarrassed by the failure of the firm of Grant and Ward, the general undertook the project after encouragement by publisher Robert U. Johnson. Although General Grant soon discovered that he enjoyed the writing, he also learned that he had developed a throat cancer which severely limited the time he had left for his undertaking. He was fortunate to have the assistance of Samuel L. Clemens—Mark Twain—who was determined to help the general avoid yet another business mistake. As Grant's publisher, Clemens helped make the work a financial success. The memoirs were so well done that for years there were doubts about whether the general had had the assistance of a ghost writer, but it has now been clearly established that the work was his own. Originally published in two volumes, it has just been released in a single paperback by the University of Nebraska Press in its Bison Book Series. With an introduction by Brooks D. Simpson, *Personal Memoirs of U. S. Grant* is available from the University of Nebraska Press, 312 North 14th Street, Lincoln, NE 68588-0484 and in selected book stores. The price is \$25.00.

Another new release in the Bison Books series is *Advance & Retreat: Personal Experiences in the United States and Confederate States Armies* by John Bell Hood. With an introduction by Bruce J. Dinges, this book is the story of the fiery Kentuckian and devout Southerner who left the U.S. Army to join the Confederacy and rose from lieutenant to brigadier general in ten months. He was a full general at age 33. He also gained a reputation for his willingness to attack regardless of circumstances. He fought at Gettysburg, Chickamauga, Atlanta, Franklin, and Nashville. Hood emerged from the Confederate collapse in 1865 with one leg, one arm, and the knowledge that many casualties were strewn across the battlefields because of his rash and reckless behavior. *Advance & Retreat* is available from the University of Nebraska Press and selected book stores for \$15.00 paper.

Another recently released Bison Book is Charles A. Dana's *Recollections of the Civil War: With the Leaders at Washington and in the Field in the Sixties*. Introduced for the series by Charles E. Rankin, *Recollections* is an account—written some 30 years after the war—by one

of America's leading journalists of the Gilded Age who served as assistant secretary of war from 1863 to 1865. The quality of his war-time reports is perhaps best summed up in a letter from P. H. Watson, Acting Secretary of War, who wrote in November 1863 that "both [the Secretary of War and the President] receive your dispatches regularly and esteem them highly, not merely because they are reliable, but for their clearness of narrative and their graphic pictures. . . ." The book is available from the University of Nebraska Press and sells for \$12.95 in paperback.

Publication in book form of the screenplay of a motion picture is somewhat unusual, but *Andersonville* was an unusual movie. Gideon Books, in association with the Louisiana State University Press, has just published in paperback, *Andersonville: The Complete Original Screenplay by David W. Rintels*. Introduced by James M. McPherson, author of *Battle Cry of Freedom* and with a foreword by John Frankenheimer, director of the film, *Andersonville* is available from the Louisiana State University Press, P. O. Box 25053, Baton Rouge, LA 70894-5053. The toll free telephone number is 1-800-861-3477. The price is \$14.95.