

1997

Book Reviews

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Recommended Citation

Society, Florida Historical (1997) "Book Reviews," *Florida Historical Quarterly*. Vol. 76 : No. 2 , Article 8.
Available at: <https://stars.library.ucf.edu/fhq/vol76/iss2/8>

BOOK REVIEWS

A History of the Timucua Indians and Missions. By John H. Hann. (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 1996. xvi, 400 pp. Foreword, preface, list of names, maps, notes, glossary, abbreviations, bibliography, index. \$49.95 cloth.)

Awarded the Rembert W. Patrick Memorial Book Award for 1996.

The Indians of Florida were the first native people of North America to experience European exploration, and they were the first to experience long-term colonization and missionization. Yet, perhaps because of the formidable technical difficulties in researching their history, their story has gone untold until quite recently. Researching their history requires one to exploit early modern Spanish documents, but also to possess the knowledge to critically interpret an archaeological record that is now over a half-century old. And for the Timucua there is the added challenge of gaining at least a structural grasp of the Timucuan language, for which historical sources exist as well as a recent linguistic analysis by Julian Granberry. John Hann possesses these qualifications, and over the past decade he has published three books which have placed the history of the native peoples of Florida on a new footing: first his book *Apalachee: The Land Between the Rivers* (1988); then *Missions to the Calusa* (1991), a compendium of translated documents with critical commentary; and now *A History of the Timucua Indians and Missions*.

Hann's *History* begins with an introductory description of the Timucuan-speaking peoples and their homeland (chapters 1 and 2); chapters 3 and 4 survey initial European exploration and colonization by Juan Ponce de León, Pánfilo de Narváez, Hernando de Soto, Jean Ribaut, René de Laudonnière, and Pedro Menéndez de Avilés; chapters 5 through 8 survey salient Timucuan social, economic, political, and linguistic patterns; and just short of two-thirds of the book (chapters 9-16) recount the history of the Timucua from initial missionization in the late 1500s to their last years in Florida in the early 1700s.

Novel interpretations, the fruit of decades of closely reading the documents, are scattered throughout this book. For example,

Hann doubts that the Timucuan-speaking Ocone are to be linked to the Oconee River Valley of Georgia solely on the basis of the resemblance of the two names (4); he is justifiably skeptical of John R. Swanton's interpretation of the Tawasa on the basis of the Lamhatty document (6); he explains the historical origin of the ethnonym *Timucua* (15-19); he argues that Garcilaso de la Vega's description of Timucuan settlement patterns was probably based on Apalachee practices (32); he notes that the Timucuans could not store corn for more than three or four months because it became infested with grain moths and was eaten by weevils (93); and he describes a pattern of ceremonial wailing as a greeting that is reminiscent of practices among the Caddoan-speaking peoples of Arkansas, Louisiana, and eastern Texas (104-105). Many other examples could be cited.

I noticed only one anthropological lapse. The succession of a female chief's (*cacica*) daughter to her office is consistent with matrilineal succession, not patrilineal succession (93). What is to be explained is why there were so many female chiefs among Timucuan-speaking peoples. Hernando de Soto and Juan Pardo encountered notable female chiefs in the Carolinas, and one wonders whether female chiefs in matrilineal societies was a phenomenon that occurred mainly on the eastern and southern margins of the Mississippian Southeast. In the interior of the Southeast, the native societies were no less matrilineal, but the political leaders were normally male.

By far the most original contribution of this book is Hann's historical account of the missionization of the Timucua, their experience under Spanish rule, and their destruction at the hands of the Carolina colonists and their Indian allies. This early historical continuity among native peoples is most unusual for the Southeast, where a substantial historical gap exists between the documentation of the sixteenth-century explorers and that of the French and English of the late seventeenth century. The details of everyday mission life in Hann's book are fascinating, particularly as revealed by the Timucuan revolt of 1656. And in this regard, one expects that John Worth's forthcoming book on this revolt will reveal even more.

John Hann is a historian's historian. Details are important to him, and he includes most of his scholarly argumentation and commentary in his text rather than in endnotes. The long list of mission names, Indian villages, and ethnonyms in Hann's pages will tax all but the most determined readers, who will wish for more

maps. For historians and anthropologists interested in the social history of the early Southeast, this book will be indispensable. But readers who want easier access to the Timucua may well want to begin with Jerald Milanich's *The Timucua* (Blackwell, 1996).

University of Georgia

CHARLES HUDSON

Miami: The American Crossroad, A Centennial Journey 1896-1996. By Arva Moore Parks and Gregory W. Bush with Laura Pincus. (Needham Heights, Mass.: Simon and Schuster Custom Publishing for the Institute for Public History, University of Miami, Coral Gables, 1996. xii, 220 pp. Foreword by Marjorie Stoneman Douglas. Acknowledgments, preface, photographs, index, bibliography, about the authors and collaborators. \$11.24 net paper.)

Winner of the Charlton W. Tebeau Book Award for 1996.

Since he arrived on the campus of the University of Miami in 1983, Gregory Bush, a professor in the Department of History, has taken his discipline beyond the classroom to the community at large. Bush's most notable accomplishment to date in the realm of public history has been the pivotal role he played in the conception and launching of the Louis Wolfson II Media History Center, a superb repository of television news footage and documentary film employed in classrooms, accessible to the general public through frequent screenings at the county's main library (which hosts the Center), and used by filmmakers.

Bush was aware that eleventh graders in Dade County's public and private schools, who are required to study history, received little if any instruction in the rich history of their locale. Accordingly, he decided in the early 1990s with the centennial of the City of Miami approaching, to prepare a book consisting of primary source material on Miami and Dade County history for students at this level. Bush received a sizable grant for preparation of the study, as well as the assurance from Simon and Schuster Customer Publishing and Prentice Hall, in a joint offer of support, that the former would print 30,000 copies of the work and dispense the lion's share to students without cost.

Bush began the project in collaboration with Henry Green, a colleague at the University of Miami. Later, in 1995, Bush turned to

Arva Parks, an accomplished Miami historian with significant clout and high visibility in the community. The final result of this pairing (with a great deal of assistance from Bush's students and former students) was *Miami: The American Crossroad, A Centennial Journey, 1896-1996*, published through the University of Miami's Institute for Public History. This sparkling study is now in the hands of all eleventh-grade students in Dade County.

Miami: The American Crossroad is a centennial journey and more, since it traces Miami's history from the time when the earliest known inhabitants lived in the area more than 10,000 years ago to the end of the tumultuous twentieth century. The readings contained within the book are relatively brief, chronologically arranged, and faithfully follow the main currents of the area's history. Each section of readings is introduced with an enlightening essay by the editors. The readings include first person accounts of Miami at different junctures in its history, newspaper and magazine articles, diary entries, government documents, transcripts of speeches, excerpts from memoirs, the reflections and observations of prominent persons, ranging from Frank Lloyd Wright to Michael Mann, producer of "Miami Vice," and essays on various elements and aspects of the city by many Miamians who have forged distinguished careers. Parks was instrumental in obtaining contributors in the last category. *Miami: The American Crossroad* also contains sidebars on prominent and interesting personalities, events, and institutions. Photographs and illustrations add significantly to the study.

The work is particularly strong in the realm of social history, which should pique the interest of its youthful readers. The material on the city's tumultuous political history, however, is sparse, reflecting the failure of Miami historians (with the notable exception of Raymond Mohl) to fully explore this vital sector of its history.

It is both the hope and belief of this reviewer that *Miami: The American Crossroad* will help area students begin to grasp the rich, multi-layered history of Miami and Dade County. Additionally, this timely anthology will attract a wider audience. I am already employing it with good results in a college-level class in Miami and South Florida history comprised almost exclusively of students who long ago completed their undergraduate degrees.

Miami Dade Community College
Wolfson Campus

PAUL S. GEORGE

The New Orleans Cabildo: Colonial Louisiana's First City Government, 1769-1803. By Gilbert C. Din and John E. Harkins. (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1996. xix, 330 pp. Preface, abbreviations, illustrations, bibliography, index. \$45.00 hardcover.)

Except for diplomatic history, scholars have long neglected the four decades in which Spain controlled Louisiana (1762-1803). For the most part, the few twentieth-century historians who have examined Spanish Louisiana have been unduly influenced by earlier French Creole historians who felt that the Spaniards who administered the colony were cruel and corrupt. These historians viewed the Cabildo— the institution that provided New Orleans with municipal government during the Spanish era— in an unfavorable light, mainly because they relied on published accounts of biased French and American travelers who visited the town in the late Spanish period when the Cabildo's influence had declined and two poorly qualified governors held office. Based on these descriptions, historians have concluded that these stories about the Cabildo were true for the entire period, thus lending justification to their insistence that Spain's rule was ineffective and had no lasting influence on Louisiana.

These myths, however, should be permanently laid to rest by Gilbert C. Din— the pre-eminent historian of Spanish Louisiana— in his new, all-encompassing study of the New Orleans Cabildo. Din's work builds upon John E. Harkins' 1976 Ph.D. dissertation on the Cabildo, which was based solely on Works Progress Administration translations of Spanish documents. Din has revised Harkins' manuscript using the original Spanish *Actas del Cabildo* as well as other documentation from various Spanish archives, and has introduced new interpretations based upon his own expert knowledge of Spanish Louisiana. The result is a highly informative and surprisingly readable account of the New Orleans Cabildo which explains its exact function, composition, and administration. In telling the history of the Cabildo, Din provides the reader with a deeper understanding of colonial New Orleans, while also placing the city and its government in context through comparisons with other municipalities in the Spanish Borderlands, North America, as well as Spanish America.

Din has made his comprehensive study more understandable by organizing it topically instead of chronologically. Following in-

troductory background chapters, Din examines the Cabildo's officers and employees, and its relations with the Spanish governor, intendant, and the Catholic Church. Although the New Orleans Cabildo reflected the interests and aspirations of Louisiana's Creole elite, particularly the planters, Din finds that the Cabildo usually acted to reconcile imperial policies and local concerns, and positively contributed to the administration of Spanish Louisiana by working as a liaison between the various components of colonial government. Din then provides an in-depth look at the daily mechanics of colonial New Orleans by studying the Cabildo's work in areas such as municipal finances, race relations, food and marketing, medicine and health regulations, public works, land grants, and ceremonial functions. Despite the fact that Spanish law did not assign the Cabildo responsibility over many of these areas, the city government assumed control over them due to the lack of any alternatives.

Anyone who has ever lived in New Orleans will be startled to learn that the Cabildo succeeded in most of its endeavors; particularly surprising is its vigilance in the field of public works. Only in the last days of Spanish Louisiana, when illness and death ravaged the Cabildo's members and antagonistic governors were in charge, did the institution lose power and prestige. For most of the era, however, the New Orleans Cabildo had higher per capita revenues than most Spanish American cities, and it devoted almost all of its income, unlike other Spanish American municipalities, to the community's well-being. Thus, the author concludes that the New Orleans Cabildo was more comparable to municipal governments in the United States than to those in Spanish America. Gilbert Din has produced a study of the New Orleans Cabildo which focuses on the institution's many positive contributions instead of its few failures and thereby has helped shed a new light upon Spanish Louisiana, free from the biases of past historians.

University of West Florida

F. TODD SMITH

Journal of a Visit to the Georgia Islands of St. Catherines, Green, Ossabaw, Sapelo, St. Simons, Jekyll, and Cumberland, with Comments on the Florida Islands of Amelia, Talbot, and St. George in 1753. Edited by Virginia Steele Wood and Mary R. Bullard. (Macon, Ga.: Mercer University Press, 1996. x, 103 pp. Foreword, preface, introduction, short titles, abbreviations, location symbols, notes, credits, index, notes on the contributors. \$22.95 hardcover.)

Jonathan Bryan's career as a leader in the development of the southern frontier was resurrected in Alan Gallay's fine biography. Now the publication of Bryan's long-ignored journal adds a noteworthy addendum to the life and times of this astute colonial entrepreneur. Likewise, Bryan's journal provides an informative glimpse of coastal Georgia in the waning years of the Trust just prior to the colony's transformation as a lucrative rice-producing region. In the vanguard of South Carolina planters who migrated to Georgia, Bryan and his cohorts sought productive rice lands and status; they were the founders of an economic and social system that would characterize the region for the next century.

Although many questions remain about the provenance of Bryan's journal, since 1974 it has been among the holdings of the Georgia Historical Society. Presumably, it was prepared as a report for John Reynolds, Georgia's first royal governor. In August 1753, seven months after he moved to Georgia, Bryan and a small party that included William G. DeBrahm, John Williamson, and William Simmons began their voyage of exploration down the Georgia coast.

They first visited St. Catherines Island, partially owned by the Bosomworths, then on to William Simmons' intended settlement up the Newport River. After exploring the uninhabited island of Sapelo, their next stop was St. Simons Island and Frederica, which they found in a "ruinous condition," the typical plight of Georgia's coastal fortifications. Since hostilities still simmered with the Spanish and their Indian allies in Florida, an armed scout boat joined the expedition before it proceeded to Jekyll Island. On Cumberland Island they found the ruins of Fort St. Andrew and visited the lonely detachment at Fort William. Deterred by inclement weather from visiting Amelia, Talbot, and St. George Islands, nonetheless Bryan's journal contains interesting comments about them. En-route back to Savannah, they were entertained by Adam Bosomworth on St. Catherines; they visited Mark Carr's planned site of Sunbury and called on the Maxwell family at Green Island.

Bryan arrived home before the end of August, having been away for nearly a month.

Although he never explained the real purpose of his journey, Bryan's main interest was land. Between 1753 and 1756 he added more than 18,000 acres to his holdings through grants and purchases. Bryan noted that the coastal region was ideally suited for cultivating rice, corn, oranges, and indigo, and for both lumbering and fishing. He envisioned the rivers of south Georgia as conduits of trade for the Florida hinterland and the barrier islands as sites for prosperous ports. As he commented on Amelia Island, "what a Pity so much pleasant good land should lie uninhabited" (32).

Bryan's journal is only ten printed pages, however, the editor's detailed notes take up thirty-five pages; their bibliography adds another sixteen pages. The book is enhanced by a number of excellent maps and illustrations. Wood and Bullard have again demonstrated their intimate familiarity with the geography, history, and archaeology of the Georgia and North Florida coasts. Well written and superbly edited, Bryan's journal will be useful to scholars who are interested in both Georgia and Florida history during the mid-eighteenth century.

Georgia Southern University

R. FRANK SAUNDERS, JR., EMERITUS

Understanding the American Revolution: Issues and Answers. By Jack P. Greene. (Charlottesville and London: University Press of Virginia, 1995. xii, 401 pp. Preface, index. \$68.50 hardcover, \$24.50 paper.)

Jack Greene has masterfully compiled a series of previously published essays which explain the American Revolution from political, intellectual, social, and diplomatic perspectives. The volume revolves around four major themes: the causes of the American Revolution; the American colonies' role in the developing crisis; the war's effect on existing political cultures; and finally, the actors involved in the crisis and the war's impact on them. In addressing these four themes, Greene does so as a colonial historian who views the subject as an outgrowth of British imperial history. This approach demonstrates the continuity of the topic and conveys a clear understanding of how difficult it was for the American colonists to declare their independence and why it became absolutely essential that they do so.

Greene contends that the American Revolution resulted from inept British imperial policy. Acknowledging that it is neither possible nor desirable to attribute one single cause to such an unwieldy and complex subject as the American Revolution, he argues that attempts at colonial reform in the mid-eighteenth century forced the colonists to assert their independence. While England attempted to tighten its authority over the colonies, local institutions and colonial attempts to understand their constitutional standing moved the colonists toward revolution. Considering themselves British subjects loyal to the Crown, American colonists believed it was their right and responsibility to formulate policy for themselves. In order to avoid the inevitable conflict, the British Parliament would have had to recognize American sovereignty in its own right, an idea conceived too early to be acceptable.

The second and third themes focus on American involvement in the developing crisis and the Revolution's lasting effects. Using Virginia as an example, Greene contends that colonists' perceptions of themselves and of British society made it morally imperative that the colonies break away from the mother country. The Stamp Act crises, which encouraged feelings of uncertainty about the colony's constitutional standing within the empire, created an external threat to the colony's self image. While reeling from Great Britain's passage of the Stamp Act, the colony also experienced the effects of both the Robinson scandal and the Chiswell case. These internal scandals suggested that Virginia's gentry was guilty of the same moral decadence as its accused British counterpart. To save the colony's self-image— one based on virtue and liberty— the gentry embraced reform. As Greene astutely points out, the Virginia gentry's drive to purge itself of the same corrupt characteristics believed to be prevalent in the British ruling class paved the way for the final break with British royal authority.

However, Greene also argues that the Revolution was limited. It originated in the desire to limit governmental intrusion into the private sphere. Following the Revolution, which required enormous collective action, the American colonists once again embraced individualism and limited governmental involvement— a return to the status quo.

Finally, Greene examines the various actors engaged in the shaping of both British and American opinion during the crisis. Chapters eleven, twelve and thirteen are devoted to Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Paine, and Philip Mazzei, respectively. Accord-

ing to the author, these men served as cultural brokers between the Old World and the New World, providing greater understanding to parties on either side of the Atlantic. Consequently, they were often the ones most impacted by the trans-Atlantic conflict.

The chapter entitled "The Alienation of Benjamin Franklin, British American" symbolically demonstrates the growing rift between the Americans and their British counterparts. Although he had a deep affection for Britain, London and the British people, Franklin placed significant blame for the growing crises on Britain's failure to appreciate the deep affection colonists had for their mother country or to realize the significant role the colonies could serve in the future development of the British empire. According to Greene, Franklin's final alienation from the British government reflected the growing estrangement of the American people from the mother country. Like Franklin, the American colonists were the victims of British suspicion and British failure to recognize both Franklin's and the American colonists' affection and loyalty to the British empire.

Understanding the American Revolution is a comprehensive, well-researched study of the various factors which contributed to the American Revolution. Throughout, Greene skillfully outlines where scholarship of the American Revolution has succeeded and failed. He poses significant questions which must be answered before the American Revolution can truly be understood.

Florida International University

PATRICIA FARLESS

Political Culture in the Nineteenth-Century South: Mississippi, 1830-1900.

By Bradley G. Bond. (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1995. 343 pp. Acknowledgments, introduction, tables, bibliography, index. \$35.00 hardcover.)

Bradley G. Bond's sophisticated examination of the "social ethic" and "political culture" of nineteenth-century Mississippi rests partly on a quantitative examination of social and economic change in a dozen sample counties. Most of the book, however, studies white Mississippians' statements and political behavior, though not such policy outputs as teachers' salaries or railroad construction. Bond argues persuasively that, throughout the transforming changes that he traces, a bedrock racism persisted.

In effect, Bond extends into the twentieth century the insights Edmund S. Morgan voiced in *American Slavery—American Freedom* concerning the importance of race and slavery to the emergence in the eighteenth century of republican ideas and practices. Emphasizing twin dimension of independence—economic and political—Bond analyzes participation in the market as well as in politics. Bond's white Mississippians, measuring success in these terms and in their denial of those prerogatives to their black neighbors, did all they could to prevent black Mississippians' access to the market or the ballot box. Black Mississippians supplied whites an economic mudsill and an ideological touchstone.

Bond neglects the most important fact of life in nineteenth-century Mississippi: black residents outnumbered whites from the 1830s to the 1930s. Before emancipation, whites saw "northern despotism and black liberty" as twin threats. Two years before secession, one man denied there could ever be "equality of the races," for blacks "cannot live amongst us except as our slaves or our masters." The formal end to slavery did little to force a reconsideration of this view. White Mississippians insisted that, slave or free, black Mississippians must be kept poor, dependent, powerless—landless and disfranchised. Whites thus submerged their differences in a unified commitment to "theories of race that . . . secured the foundation of white liberty in black subjugation."

Despite its title, this case study of "the nineteenth-century South" makes scant reference to either the history or the historiography of Florida, Virginia, or even the only other state with a slave majority, South Carolina. Bond's Mississippians display a uniform commitment to white supremacy—an analysis that runs counter to V. O. Key's findings in *Southern Politics* for all southern states in the twentieth century except for Mississippi and South Carolina. Was Mississippi the South?

Bond's title begs a second important question. It is embarrassing that a book published by Louisiana State University Press in 1995 speaks of southerners as if all were white. Bond counterpoints "southerners" and "slaves," "Mississippians" and "blacks." He applies the term "residents," rather than "citizens," only to white people in pre-war Mississippi. In which state did Mississippi slaves reside? Future comparable studies of other states must employ a different rhetoric of race.

We learn little here how black Mississippians contributed to, responded to, or possibly created an alternative to the political culture otherwise so well explored. On occasion, Bond acknowledges

the difficulties the Freedmen's Bureau had trying "to impose free labor on a population half of which despised the notion," or observes that the Redeemers in Mississippi sought to "return" blacks to a voiceless and powerless status in society similar to that known under slavery." Yet he renders black Mississippians voiceless by ignoring them as voters or officeholders, though they were agents as well as objects of political life in nineteenth-century Mississippi. Twice in the 1870s Mississippi had a black U.S. Senator, but this book nowhere mentions Hiram R. Revels, and Blanche K. Bruce first appears only as he leaves the Senate. How did Bruce get into office, and how did he represent his constituents?

The presence of a black majority impelled white Mississippians' tenacious hold on their power and privileges. The two groups must share space and time in the history of southern political culture. Promising, innovative, provocative as this study is, the title suggests its major shortcomings and the main direction future scholarship must take.

*Virginia Polytechnic Institute
and State University*

PETER WALLENSTEIN

Nelson A. Miles and the Twilight of the Frontier Army. By Robert Wooster. (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1996. xvii, 391 pp. Acknowledgments, illustrations, maps, notes, bibliographical essay, index. \$18.00 paper.)

Born on August 6, 1839, in Westminster township, Massachusetts, Nelson Appleton Miles grew up on the family farm. Moving to Boston in 1857, he worked in various commercial enterprises and was engaged in selling crockery at the beginning of the Civil War. After the disaster at Bull Run, he raised enough money to outfit a company in the Twenty-second Massachusetts Infantry, becoming its first lieutenant. His rise was meteoric. His first break came when he served as aide-de-camp to O. O. Howard. From there he commanded a regiment, a division, and, temporarily, the Second Corps. Four times wounded, he received the Congressional Medal of Honor for bravery at Chancellorsville and by the end of the war had achieved the rank of major general of volunteers. Accepting a colonelcy in the regular army in 1866, he continued his ascendancy.

A contemporary described Miles as the most ambitious officer in the United States Army. Those who helped him were his friends; those who did not or who stood in his way were enemies. Among those whom he consistently hated as rivals were George Crook, John Gibbon, and Ranald Mackenzie. Among his steadfast friends were George Armstrong Custer and Winfield Scott Hancock. Miles was well placed in his rise to power. He married the niece of William Tecumseh Sherman, who eventually commanded the army, and John Sherman, the sometimes secretary of the treasury, U.S. senator, and secretary of state. These men and dozens of others received almost daily prompting from Miles in furtherance of his career.

But one thing was certain: Miles had talent. Lacking sophistication, he possessed a facile mind and resolution of purpose. Personally courageous, he had the ability to inspire the men under him and the persistence to follow through until he had succeeded. While his Civil War career involved one triumph after another, his Indian Wars' successes were even more spectacular: it was Miles who defeated Crazy Horse, chased Sitting Bull into Canada, captured Chief Joseph, and sent Geronimo into exile. His exploits earned him a general's rank and command of the Division of the Atlantic.

His final triumph was earning the rank of commanding general of the United States Army on October 2, 1895. Serving until August 8, 1903, Miles continued his intrigues, independent actions, and public outbursts at those whom he considered inept or obstructionist. While he brilliantly engineered the capture of Puerto Rico during the Spanish American War, he made the mistake of earning Theodore Roosevelt's enmity, and it was the cowboy president who retired Miles on his sixty-fourth birthday. Never finished, Miles was an unsuccessful candidate for president in 1904 and Congress in 1913. He died on May 16, 1925, while attending the Barnum and Bailey Circus in Washington, D.C.

Central to this study are military records in the National Archives and Miles' papers in the Library of Congress, as well as the diaries, letters, and memoirs of his friends and associates. Wooster is the first scholar to use a new cache of Miles' papers and documents recently acquired by the U.S. Military Institute, Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania, and a typescript of letters written to Miles' wife from a private source. Wooster is one of the major talents presently at work in nineteenth-century military history, and his biography replaces all previous attempts. As an explication of the workings, rivalries, and intrigues of the frontier army, it ranks among the best

yet produced. Hopefully, this new Bison Book edition will make this fine 1993 study available to many more readers.

Sheridan, Wyoming

JOHN D. McDERMOTT

A Very Violent Rebel: The Civil War Diary of Ellen Renshaw House. Edited by Daniel E. Sutherland with a foreword by Frank L. Byrne. Voices of the Civil War Series. (Knoxville: The University of Tennessee Press, 1996. xxv, 285 pp. Foreword, acknowledgments, editorial policy, introduction, illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$34.00 cloth.)

While every casual student of the Civil War knows about Mary Chesnut and her diary, few other Confederate women have received as much attention for their journal-keeping during the war. Ellen Renshaw House, a fierce supporter of the Confederacy despite her residence in Knoxville, the heart of East Tennessee, recorded her experiences during the three years between 1863 and 1865. House's descendants recently discovered her diary and have generously arranged for its publication in the Voices of the Civil War series. House's perspective as a Confederate woman behind Union lines, as well as her accounts of her forced relocation to Georgia, distinguish her narrative from most other published works. The skillful editing of Daniel Sutherland, typical of this series, greatly aids the reader in connecting Ellen House with a broader historical context.

House began keeping a journal in January 1863, partly as a way to record her experiences for her soldier brother Johnnie. In September, she started daily entries, chronicling the effects of the Confederate siege of Union-controlled Knoxville. House certainly was no impartial recorder of events. Rather, she spiced her narrative with references to how much she hated Yankees, cheered Confederate victories, and openly scorned men who took the oath of loyalty to the Union government. House explains how the siege of Knoxville affected the occupation forces as well as civilians. She endured privations, which included having to move out of her parents' home because the Union army wanted to use it, because she saw half-starved Union troops in town as evidence that her sacrifices would soon be rewarded by Confederate victory. While she rarely felt compassion for the invaders, she regularly did her part to help the cause by comforting prisoners of war kept in the local jail. Her Confederate sympathies eventually landed her in trouble,

however. In 1864, Union authorities ordered her to move beyond their lines into Confederate territory.

After she left Knoxville, Ellen's journal becomes sketchy. She did not record much of her journey as a refugee to Eatonton, Georgia, to remain with friends. There Ellen ironically experienced few of the hardships of the Confederacy's last days; she noted that her life in exile, mostly playing chess and cards, with dancing thrown in, had little connection to reality. Following the end of the war, House returned home to Knoxville and maintained her diary through the end of 1865. Her narrative effectively shows the bitterness of East Tennessee's former Confederates, who chafed under the oppression of rule by the Union military and spiteful local Unionists. Violence had not stopped when the fighting ended, as Ellen painfully realized when her beloved brother Johnnie was fatally shot in December 1865, prompting her to close her journal.

House's account is particularly valuable for the mix of unfounded rumor and accurate information she recorded. While in Knoxville, Ellen picked up many wild rumors about the progress of the war, yet she also gleaned nuggets of reliable news from soldiers in both armies. Sutherland's notes serve the reader well here, as he sorts the wheat from the chaff without obscuring the author's voice. The placement of the notes at the end of the book enables the reader to use them according to individual preference. While Ellen's diary is definitely an interesting account of one Confederate woman's experience, it does not add much to our knowledge of the Civil War, especially outside East Tennessee. However, particularly for people interested in the effects of war on southern civilians or the experiences of Confederate women, her narrative is worth a look.

University of Kentucky

CHRISTOPHER M. PAINE

The Alabama— the Kearsarge: The Sailor's Civil War. By William Marvel. (Chapel Hill and London: University of North Carolina Press, 1996. x, 337 pp. Preface, maps, illustrations, appendices, glossary of naval terminology, notes, bibliography, index. \$34.95 hardcover.)

Curiosity about the life of the common sailor in the Civil War motivated William Marvel to write this maritime history. The author uses the famous Confederate raider the CSS *Alabama* and her nemesis the Federal ship USS *Kearsarge*, as the backdrop for his study of the social history of the men who served on those ships.

Through the use of wartime diaries, letters, journals and official documents he has pieced together a history of the blue-water Civil War sailor. Marvel contends that the daily life of the Civil War soldier has been recorded in copious detail, but the poor blue jacket has been largely ignored in the vast panoply of Civil War literature. One unique feature is the unpatronizing way in which the author examines the role African-American seamen played on both the Confederate and Union ships.

The author contends that no work of note has been written about the *Kearsarge* or the *Alabama*, and he does a superb job of documenting the construction of both ships. The secrecy of the building of ship 290 (*Alabama*) at the shipyards of John Laird and Sons in Liverpool, England, and the attempts to side-step international maritime laws, is an intriguing story. His description of the construction of the USS *Kearsarge* at the shipyards in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, gives insight into the frenzied response by a Federal navy fearful of the newly developing Confederate navy.

Interesting features of the book include Marvel's examination of maritime law; the role of naval law and custom and the significant role it played in the lives of both Confederate and Federal seamen; and efforts by both Federal and Confederate authorities to respect, or secretly circumnavigate, those laws.

The author details the exploits of the CSS *Alabama* at sea: the sinking, burning or capturing of sixty-plus Northern ships, the impact on maritime activities, and the fear spread by the *Alabama*. The less colorful saga of the *Kearsarge* at sea paints a picture of frustration and monotony. One is struck by the frequent number of repairs that the *Kearsarge* and *Alabama* required. This frequent maintenance contributed to the frustration encountered by the crews.

In discussing the shipboard life of both Federal and Confederate sailors, Marvel incorporates a good deal of anecdotal material. It is this human aspect that gives the book a feeling of warmth and familiarity. According to Marvel, underlying all was the boredom and monotony of daily activity. Alcohol seemed to be the chief remedy for counteracting the monotony of life at sea. Desertion was common on both ships, and the men who enlisted were not always motivated by patriotism. One caveat: many of the enlisted men came from foreign ports and their views often stand in contrast to those of their American shipmates.

It is extremely difficult to find letters, diaries, or journals written by common seamen; most crewmen served in nameless obscu-

rity. To the author's credit, he found those sources and does a superb job interweaving them into the narrative. The boredom of shipboard life is reflected in the writing of the history and the reader is unavoidably exposed to a monotony of his/her own.

Marvel's examination of the activities of the *Kearsarge* and *Alabama* during the period 1861 through 1863 is thorough, but provides little that is startlingly new. His study of the life of the deep-water sailor is the strength of this work, and if one is interested in the social history of the Civil War blue jacket, this is a good addition to your library.

Kutztown University

DAVID L. VALUSKA

Colonel Burton's Spiller & Burr Revolver: An Untimely Venture in Confederate Small-Arms Manufacturing. By Matthew W. Norman. (Macon: Mercer University Press, 1996. xiv, 137 pp. List of illustrations, acknowledgments, appendices, bibliography, index. \$18.95 hardback).

With the outbreak of the American Civil War, the Confederacy encountered a dilemma: how would they arm their troops for the upcoming hostilities? Almost all of the United States' weapons factories were located in the North, mostly along the Connecticut River Valley. These factories, and the experienced workmen who labored in them, were a critical advantage for the Union.

Weapons confiscated from Federal arsenals and arms that had been purchased from northern manufacturers during the prewar buildup helped to fill the gap initially, but the South was soon driven to import guns from Europe and establish arms manufacturing of their own. The weapons crafted in the South for use in battle by Confederate soldiers have long held a romantic place of pride for collectors and scholars of Civil War firearms, and many books and articles have been written on this topic. While early writings were generally based upon observation of the artifacts themselves (rather than examination of hard-to-find archival sources) in recent years a number of new and more scholarly publications have appeared-revolutionizing the study of Confederate weapons and Southern manufacturing in general.

Colonel Burton's Spiller & Burr Revolver, by Matthew W. Norman, fits neatly into this new generation of research. Spiller & Burr revolvers

have long been highly valued artifacts of the Civil War, but little was known of the firm that produced them. The names Spiller and Burr refer to two principal businessmen and investors in the company, but the driving force behind the project was James H. Burton. Burton was the most qualified man in the entire Confederacy when it came to small arms manufacture; he had been foreman, then acting master armorer, at Harper's Ferry Armory and the chief engineer of the factory in England that manufactured Enfield rifles.

As the South had no revolver factories, Burton was able to secure an extremely lucrative contract to fill this strategic need. Much of the money was supplied up front, providing most of the capital necessary to establish the factory (which was eventually located in Atlanta). Rather than invent a new, untested design, Burton wisely chose to make almost exact copies of a previously existing and successful product— the Whitney revolver. Because the Whitney company was located in the North, there were no concerns about patent infringement!

Norman does an admirable job describing the unique challenges faced by Burton in establishing a revolver factory from scratch. The depth of the author's research is evident throughout, as he makes good use of government and factory records, letters, diaries and secondary sources.

Like so many Confederate industrial ventures, the Spiller & Burr factory failed spectacularly. In this instance, the overriding problem was a lack of skilled workmen. Norman shows how the Confederate government and military, through an amazing combination of self-destructive parochialism and inefficiency, prevented this key factory from acquiring a sufficient labor force. In a downward spiral of failure, the factory could not produce pistols on time, had piles of them rejected as defective, was taken over by the government, moved to Macon and was eventually broken up with the approach of Federal troops. Total production was about 1,500 pistols— dramatically below estimates and not nearly enough to be a noticeable aid to the Confederacy at a time when some of her soldiers were entirely unarmed.

Norman has succeeded in portraying, in rare detail, the story of a Confederate venture that should have worked but did not. It is in many ways typical of Confederate industrial efforts, and a telling portrayal of a golden opportunity squandered.

Lincoln, RI

STUART C. MOWBRAY

Bentonville: The Final Battle of Sherman and Johnston. By Nathaniel Cheairs Hughes, Jr. (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1996. xix, 336 pp. Preface, author's note, maps, illustrations, appendices, notes, bibliography, index. \$37.50 hardcover.)

In *Bentonville*, Nathaniel Cheairs Hughes, Jr., offers a tactical study of the only major Civil War battle fought in North Carolina. As Hughes states in his preface, this book "is only an effort to provide narrative structure to a chaotic event, clouded by time." The chaotic event occurred March 19-21, 1865, and pitted two old adversaries, Union Major General William T. Sherman and Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston. Sherman commanded a sixty-thousand-man juggernaut that had rolled steadily northward from Savannah since February 1. He hoped to link with additional Union forces at Goldsboro, North Carolina, then either march on the state capitol in Raleigh or move by rail to join U. S. Grant's army outside of Petersburg, Virginia.

Johnston was summoned from retirement by Confederate General Robert E. Lee to gather a force to stop Sherman. By March 18, he assembled near Bentonville approximately nineteen thousand men, including remnants of the Army of Tennessee, garrisons in Savannah and Charleston, and North Carolina state troops. The following day, Johnston ambushed Sherman's isolated left wing commanded by Major General Henry W. Slocum, dealing it a hard, but not fatal, blow. Having exhausted most of his forces in this attack, Johnston was forced to assume a defensive posture on March 20. Meanwhile, Major General Oliver O. Howard's right wing linked with Slocum. Sherman failed to launch a coordinated assault against the outnumbered Confederates on March 21, although a spirited attack by Brigadier General Joseph A. Mower's division nearly turned Johnston's left flank. After fending off Mower, Johnston retreated northward that night.

Hughes is partially successful in peering through the clouds of time surrounding the Battle of Bentonville. He excels in setting the stage for the altercation when describing the northward march of Sherman's war machine and comparing it to Johnston's valiant attempt to amass a ragtag collection of Confederate units capable of stopping him. He couples this with profiles of many participating Union and Confederate officers. Hughes also convincingly depicts Bentonville as a metaphor for the Confederacy's rapidly evaporating hopes.

Hughes' detailed tactical coverage often makes for confusing reading. This results in part from his decision to discuss different phases of the battle from strictly a Union or Confederate viewpoint in separate chapters. For example, in discussing Johnston's ambush, Hughes explains the Confederate attacks in one chapter, then spends three chapters detailing the reactions of the Union forces, usually without identifying the opposing units or their commanders. When Hughes returns his attention solely to the Confederates and an analysis of the ambush in yet another chapter, the reader is hard-pressed to recall what exactly happened in the preceding chapters.

Hughes often disrupts the flow of his narrative by using multiple quotations within a single paragraph. The book would have proved more readable had Hughes paraphrased more often. In those instances where he provides his own interpretation and analysis of the battle, Hughes entertains and informs his reader. In most cases, he lets the quotations perform the narration.

Hughes' thirty-one-page bibliography indicates an extensive consultation of primary and secondary sources. However, most of his revealing primary sources were written by Union participants. While these materials give detailed descriptions of Sherman's actions, many of Hughes' Confederate primary sources provide far less tactical information. This does not reflect an oversight by the author, but a failure by many Confederate officers to write battle reports,

Hughes' *Bentonville* should prove welcome reading to those who have awaited a lengthy treatment of Johnston's last stand against Sherman. It is not, however, the definitive account.

Virginia State Library

DALE HARTER

The Great South Carolina Ku Klux Klan Trials, 1871-1872. By Lou Falkner Williams. (Athens and London: The University of Georgia Press, 1996. xiii, 197 pp. Acknowledgments, notes, bibliography, index. \$35.00 cloth.)

On its face, a book which examines the Ku Klux Klan trials in a single state over a two-year period would seem overly narrow in focus and possess only limited regional readership appeal. Lou Falkner Williams' study, *The Great South Carolina Ku Klux Klan Trials, 1871-1872*, however, is far more important and expansive than the title implies. Williams' account of these trials demonstrates clearly that although Civil War combatants had laid down their

arms, the issues which had propelled the nation into war were far from settled. White South Carolinians, stripped of political power and their chief form of property, set out to use the highly effective weapon of terror to keep the state's freedmen from exercising their newly won civil rights. By utilizing the tactics of intimidation and violence, white South Carolinians organized into a paramilitary but ever-political organization— the Ku Klux Klan— and sought to thwart the extension of political rights to the state's African-American population. In response, the federal government launched an aggressive campaign to identify and punish the offenders and thus stem the tide of anti-black, anti-Republican violence; in the process federal authorities hoped to force the federal courts to acknowledge and bless a newly expanded federal system which extended protection to all citizens. The contest which ensued saw opposing sides square off on the issue of states' rights versus federal rights. Would postwar America embrace a broad interpretation of the Reconstruction amendments and legislation that effectively nationalized black civil and political rights? Or would the nation retreat to the traditional *laissez-faire*, conservative view of limited constitutional and federal authority? Moreover, the contest pitted "white supremacy versus black equality, vigilante justice and the code of honor versus the rule of law" (31). In short, these few cases tried from 1871 to 1872 tested nothing less than the federal government's ability to protect the lives of black Americans.

White South Carolinians living in the upcountry in 1870 and 1871 unleashed a torrent of violence against blacks and Republicans. Northern-born governor Robert K. Scott called upon the federal government for intervention which came swiftly. President Ulysses S. Grant effectively declared martial law, the first time such action had been taken in peacetime. He ordered additional troops sent to the state and suspended the writ of *habeas corpus* in nine South Carolina counties, facilitating the arrest of hundreds of suspected Klansmen. Congress responded as well with additional legislation, the Ku Klux Klan Act, the third in a series of Enforcement Acts, and held hearings to determine the extent of Klan activity in the former Confederacy.

Responsibility for the prosecution of suspected Klansmen fell upon Attorney General Amos T. Akerman and David T. Corbin, U.S. Attorney for South Carolina. The task was an ominous one for many reasons, but primarily because Corbin faced uncharted, murky constitutional waters. The prosecution's strategy posited that

the Fourteenth Amendment conferred positive rights and dramatically altered the nature of the federal system by promoting an expanded sphere of authority for the federal government. The federal government maintained the right to intervene and protect (black) citizens not only from state powers but from individuals within the states when the state itself was unable or unwilling to protect them. The defense naturally claimed that such reasoning overstepped the boundaries of federal authority and that it was the job of the states, not the central government, to police and protect the rights of its citizens.

Despite the high constitutional stakes that were laid bare by these cases, legal maneuvering and judicial rulings precluded a high court ruling on these weighty issues. And while a few Klansmen were convicted and punished for their crimes, a constitutional test of federal Reconstruction policies and amendments would have to wait, thus ending the South Carolina Ku Klux Klan trials "not with a bang but a whimper" (111). In failing to bring all black Americans under its umbrella of protection, the federal government opened the door to nearly a century of segregation, political disfranchisement and racial violence. This slim but important book echoes an all too familiar chorus, that white South Carolinians, unrepentant and intransigent, had indeed lost the war but won the peace.

Princeton University

DIANE MILLER SOMMERVILLE

An Island in the Lake of Fire: Bob Jones University, Fundamentalism, and the Separatist Movement. By Mark Dalhouse. (Athens and London: The University of Georgia Press, 1996. viii, 211 pp. Acknowledgments, introduction, notes, bibliography, index. \$24.95 cloth.)

God's Rascal: J. Frank Norris & the Beginnings of Southern Fundamentalism. By Barry Hankins. (Lexington: The University of Kentucky Press, 1996. viii, 220 pp. viii, 220 pp. Acknowledgments, introduction, notes, index. \$24.95 cloth.)

These books make significant contributions to the study of both southern religion and American Protestant fundamentalism. They tell a story that has been virtually ignored by historians working in both fields. Scholars of fundamentalism like George Marsden, Joel Carpenter, William Trolinger, and Margaret Bendroth

rarely discuss southern circumstances or at best incorporate them into a national pattern, obscuring specific regional developments. On the other hand, historians of religion in the modern South (like Kenneth K. Bailey, E. T. Thompson, Samuel Hill, and Charles Wilson) generally minimize the fundamentalist presence on the southern scene (though both Hill and Wilson have become more sensitive to it in recent work). Moreover, scholars like Nancy Ammerman, Bill J. Leonard, Joe Barnhart, and David T. Morgan have given considerable attention to the recent fundamentalist-moderate quarrel among Southern Baptists and have produced some fine monographs. These authors, though, do not push their discussion of the historical roots of the conflict much past World War II. Nor do books by Michael d'Antonio and Michael Lienesch, which discuss the rise of the religious Right in the last two decades, consider in detail its historical antecedents. Dalhouse and Hankins successfully blend the work on southern religion with the historiography of fundamentalism and help make clear the South's contribution to the religious Right.

Both authors begin their stories with the current scholarly consensus that fundamentalism emerged among American Protestants as a response to the social and intellectual changes of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Predominantly northern and urban in origin, fundamentalism represented a loose coalition of Protestants that rejected the theological trends that tried to accommodate traditional Protestant orthodoxy to the findings of science and the critical study of the Bible. During the 1920s the northern Baptist and Presbyterian denominations became the battleground between fundamentalist and liberal factions with the former seeking to thwart the latter's growing control of their churches and to preserve their traditions' distinctive theological heritage. Defeated in denominational politics and embarrassed by the Scopes trial, fundamentalists retreated and began creating a network of churches, schools, magazines, and missions agencies that gave their movement an institutional structure. During the 1940s and 1950s, fundamentalists split over the issue of membership in and cooperation with denominations dominated by theological liberals. One group adopted a more moderate tone emphasizing a positive program of evangelism and tried to shed the negative image of fundamentalism by calling themselves evangelicals. The other group maintained a militant, separatist stance and wore the label fundamentalist as a badge of honor.

Dalhousé uses the story of Bob Jones University (BJU) as a case study of these developments. In some ways, *An Island in the Lake of Fire* makes an excellent companion piece to *Reforming Fundamentalism* in which George Marsden uses Fuller Seminary to tell the story of moderate fundamentalists' evolution into post-World War II evangelicals. In Dalhousé's narrative, the development of BJU reveals how the school's leaders followed the separatist impulse to its logical outcome. Founded in 1927 by a Methodist evangelist, this school was clearly a part of the emerging network of institutions that fundamentalists founded upon their retreat from the denominations. Despite moving from Florida to Cleveland, Tennessee, and then to Greenville, South Carolina (its current location), the school remained true to its founder's vision of providing a liberal arts education in the context of a fundamentalist subculture. This continuity resulted in part from the fact that three generations of Bob Joneses have been president of the school. More important than the geographical migration was the school's gradual isolation first from southern denominations, then from moderate evangelicals, and finally from other fundamentalists. In charting these developments, Dalhousé describes the evolution of the militant, separatist wing of post-World War II fundamentalism and its pursuit of doctrinal and institutional purity.

While Dalhousé excels in describing the university's curriculum, student life, and ties to the national movement, he misses the opportunity to explore its place in a regional context. For example, Dalhousé notes that BJU regularly attracted more students from outside the South and attributes this fact to the Jones family's desire to have the school serve a national constituency. The unanswered question is why BJU held such small appeal to southern Protestants. Yet some southerners did attend, southerners served on its governing boards, some southern churches contributed to the school not only their money but also their children, and BJU's graduates filled the pulpits, directed the choirs, taught the Sunday school classes, and led the youth groups of southern churches. Had Dalhousé analyzed these networks he could have done much to describe which southern Protestants were attracted to fundamentalism and contributed to defining the movement's place in southern religion.

If Dalhousé fails to explore the regional context, Hankins may be claiming too much for the role of J. Frank Norris in bringing fundamentalism to southern Protestants. That Norris is a pivotal figure in the story of fundamentalism in the South is not to be de-

nied, but Hankins overstates his case in claiming that "Norris introduced fundamentalism in the South" (2). Dalhousie's work alone is sufficient to make clear that the growth of fundamentalism in the South was a more complicated story. Furthermore, fundamentalists had a fairly active southern Bible conference and itinerant preaching circuit established by the early 1900s at least a decade before Hankins has Norris converting to fundamentalism in 1917. Also, given Hankins' demonstration of how Norris's personality and actions alienated not only many southern Protestants who might have been sympathetic to the fundamentalist cause but also fundamentalists in the national movement, Hankins' conclusion that Norris "helped shape both the religion of his region and the fundamentalist movement nationwide" (2) seems misleading. Any "shaping" that Norris did was more one of reaction against Norris's activities than one of positive leadership. In part, Hankins does not give a clear picture of the size or the scope of Norris's following. It is also disappointing that the sources did not permit a closer examination of Norris's childhood and private life. Thus *God's Rascal* is a portrait of the public career of one of the more notorious fundamentalists of the first half of the twentieth century.

But what a picture it is. Norris embodied many of the characteristics usually associated with southern fundamentalists: loud, intransigent, sanctimonious, and self-promoting with more than a touch of hypocrisy. Hankins traces Norris's turbulent, fifty-year career from his childhood in Texas hill country to the pastorate of the First Baptist Church of Fort Worth. From this base, Norris tried to make himself a leader among Texas Southern Baptists and within the national fundamentalist movement. According to Hankins, he cast himself as the populist preacher defending the values of rural Texans against sophisticated city pastors. But Norris's censorious attacks during the 1910s and 1920s on respected Baptist leaders, charging them with fiscal mismanagement and theological liberalism, were unconvincing because of the half-truths and outright lies he published. Further undermining his credibility was a series of scandals, not the least of which were a criminal investigation for burning down his sanctuary to claim the insurance money and an acquittal for the murder of an unarmed man on the basis of self-defense. In an effort to enlarge his following, Norris became pastor of Detroit's Temple Baptist Church and for over a decade led both congregations. In addition to the usual religious issues, Norris began including assaults on the New Deal,

organized labor, and communism. Beset with a rebellion in his own empire and weakened with age, Norris died in 1952. Woven into this narrative is Hankins' careful examination of Norris's sermons and rantings, and this analysis is the most important contribution of *God's Rascal*. Hankins does a remarkable job organizing this material into topical chapters that cover Norris's religious beliefs, political attitudes, and racial views. In each chapter, Hankins carefully charts Norris's ideological twists and turns, rendering Norris's thoughts more logical and coherent than they appear in published form. He also places this discussion accurately within a variety of historiographical traditions that illumine Norris's place in history.

Together, *An Island in the Lake of Fire* and *God's Rascal* represent notable pieces of the story of fundamentalism in the South. Both books belong not only in academic libraries but also in general collections available to the broader public.

Mississippi University for Women

WILLIAM R. Glass

Looking for Clark Gable and Other 20th-Century Pursuits. By Virginia Van Der Veer Hamilton with a foreword by Wayne Flynt. (Tuscaloosa and London: The University of Alabama Press, 1996. xiv, 205 pp. Foreword, preface, photographs, index. \$21.95 paper.)

Virginia Van Der Veer Hamilton has personal attributes—intelligence, curiosity, restless energy, and what this reviewer's major professor used to call "a facile Pen"—that have made her a successful journalist, essayist, and historian. She even has a literary name. All of this talent comes into appealing focus in her new book that is, in sum, a collective look at some of the events (large and small) and people (famous and not famous) of the United States and especially the South since the 1930s.

After a brief and insightful foreword by historian Wayne Flynt of Auburn University— he notes that taken separately, her pieces "entertain," and that taken together, they "educate" (x)— *Looking for Clark Gable* unfolds. She divides the book into four parts: "A Childhood in the Great Depression," "Journalist," "Historian," and "P. S.: Some Personal Notes." Professor Hamilton refers to her work as a "retrospective," which is accurate because the book contains a large and varied number of her articles written over a number of years and presented chronologically. Many of them were done while she was a reporter and feature writer on Alabama's *Birmingham News*.

Yet, the book is much more than that. As the reader goes along— the prose is that of someone who began as a good writer and is even better today— she or he (in my case) is treated to autobiographical information that reveals an only child raised in an intellectual family whose politics were liberal but never doctrinaire. For those who think a liberal in Alabama was an anomaly, this book and her scholarly works on, among others, United States Senator Lister Hill and United States Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black will dispel that erroneous notion.

The person who peruses these pages will be informed on the major issues of earlier decades viewed in retrospect, but, better still, as seen through the analytical eyes of a young woman who writes with honesty and without rancor. The flavor and immediacy of stories recounted as they occurred is not the least of the book's attributes. Professor Hamilton's anger approaches the point of boil only when she describes some of the inequities women faced when competing with men in a world whose major players were, she realizes, sometimes condescending but more often just oblivious. Even her justified displeasure at the sexual bias of the time, while directly and forcefully stated, is accomplished philosophically and, often, with humor.

A brief review cannot do justice to the many themes and subjects that abound in *Looking for Clark Gable*. The reader meets Lillian Smith; Henry A. Wallace; the youthful Jamelle Folsom (wife of Governor James E. "Kissing Jim" Folsom); the author Robert Payne, who wrote over a hundred books and always dressed in the same blue suit, red tie, and rumbled white shirt; and a host of other intriguing people. She writes movingly about blacks and whites and the civil rights movement, and always with candor, respect, and commitment.

The book will appeal to people of all ages and all levels. Not unexpectedly, she writes a piece defending the much maligned "general reader" that some scholars seem to dismiss. The book is highly recommended because it is educational and also because where else will you find a person's junior year in college (in her case Birmingham Southern) described as: "I lay on the grass in the last warm days of that third fall and read poetry and Plato and mostly just watched the brown leaves, hitch-hiking in the wind" (34)?

Florida State University

WILLIAM WARREN ROGERS

Harry S. Truman Versus the Medical Lobby: The Genesis of Medicare. By Monte M. Poen. (Columbia and London: University of Missouri Press, 1996. xii, 260 pp. Preface, bibliography, index. \$16.95 paper.)

More than one hundred years after Germany established the first state health insurance system, the United States remains one of the only major industrialized nations lacking comprehensive, tax-supported health care. This deficiency can be attributed largely to the efforts of organized interests that have defeated every major health insurance initiative proposed since 1915, with the notable exceptions of Medicare and Medicaid. Monte Poen's *Harry S. Truman Versus the Medical Lobby: The Genesis of Medicare* examines the competing interests that advanced and opposed greater government involvement in health care in the five decades before 1965.

Poen focuses on the political contest that pitted New Dealers, liberal Democrats, health insurance advocacy groups, and organized labor against the medical lobby, conservative Democrats, Republicans, and their allies who opposed government regulation of health care. With the death of Franklin Roosevelt in the spring of 1945, advocates of government-sponsored health reform gained a strong supporter of national health insurance, President Harry Truman. Unfortunately, as health reform advocates mounted their campaign for national health insurance, Truman lent the effort little public support because he was distracted by postwar reconversion and foreign affairs, and because he feared being unfavorably compared to FDR. His most passionate advocacy came during the presidential campaign of 1948, helping him win a second term, but doing little to advance health reform legislation. Only when failure was imminent in 1952 did he propose targeted hospital insurance for the elderly, a measure enacted thirteen years later as Medicare.

Poen has written a lively legislative history based on extensive research in the government sources and the papers of health reform advocates. Unfortunately, he was denied equal access to the papers of groups and individuals opposing health reform, leaving him only public documents as sources. Poen uses these sources well, giving readers a detailed understanding of the major issues and debates. However, the narrative suffers from an unevenness where the motives and ideas of the health reform advocates are presented as rich, complex, and contested, while those of the health reform opponents are not. Poen never convincingly captures the urgency

which drove the medical lobby and political conservatives to muster the considerable resources needed to oppose health reform.

Readers familiar with recent studies on the formation of social policy written by scholars such as Theda Skocpol and Linda Gordon will notice that Poen does not address intellectual assumptions about race, class, or gender in society that may have influenced health reform debates. For example, Poen does not explore how the issues of race and gender may have led conservative Democrats from the segregated South to oppose race-inclusive government operated health programs that may have challenged white supremacy. Nor does he explain how social ideas about "deserving" groups contributed to the enactment of health care for children, mothers, military veterans, the poor, and the elderly, while universal health insurance measures met defeat. Because Poen does not explore how public policy is socially constructed; his study misses an important component of the debate over government-sponsored health care.

Harry Truman Versus the Medical Lobby provides a concise and clearly written introduction to the political history of health reform in the United States. Though lacking a thorough analysis of the social attitudes driving the health insurance debate, Poen's book is a good starting point for those wishing to acquire a basic overview of the political forces that shaped American health care policy from 1915 to 1965.

University of Wisconsin-Madison

STEVEN BURG

Perfect Villains, Imperfect Heroes: Robert F. Kennedy's War Against Organized Crime. By Ronald Goldfarb. (New York: Random House, 1995. 357 pp. Introduction, notes, bibliography, index. \$26.00 hardcover.)

In the early 1960s part of the newly elected Kennedy administration's New Frontier agenda included a significant war against organized crime and its corrupt labor union and racketeering practices. President John F. Kennedy appointed his brother, Robert F. Kennedy, to head the Justice Department. The driving force behind this undertaking, the younger Kennedy radically changed the way that department would operate for years to come.

Former Kennedy administration counsel Ronald Goldfarb describes the new attorney general in his book *Perfect Villains, Imperfect*

Heroes. Amid charges of nepotism, RFK revamped the Justice Department and gave it a direction unprecedented in American history. The new attorney general hired young, idealistic lawyers (among them author Goldfarb) and directed a fight against an expanding national crime syndicate.

The Justice Department had a number of strong (and controversial) attorneys general in its history whose name recognition extended outside Washington and into the heartland. In the 1920s, A. Mitchell Palmer directed the department against real and perceived domestic subversion with the famous "Palmer raids." In the late 1960s and early 1970s, President Nixon's attorney general, John Mitchell, achieved similar national stature in an era of protest and civil disobedience. Robert Kennedy's approach to the job was different from the two, but as the newly revamped Justice Department went to work, his name recognition proved equal to that of Palmer and Mitchell.

The Eisenhower administration had concerned itself with domestic subversion in the 1950s. J. Edgar Hoover, FBI director since the Palmer era, deemed this emphasis of utmost importance. The FBI director's critics charged him with having a myopic vision of organized crime. When Robert Kennedy arrived, much of this changed.

Kennedy became head of the Justice Department and Hoover's boss, and the number of organized crime investigations rose precipitously. Kennedy's views on law enforcement were shaped by his experience in the 1950s as counsel to the McClellan Rackets Committee that had as one of its primary targets Teamster Union boss James R. Hoffa. Soon, Ivy League-bred RFK and his whiz kids proceeded to engage in epic confrontations with the street-wise union chief by way of the forthrightly dubbed "get Hoffa" squad.

Other organized crime figures were not spared by the younger Kennedy brother. Mob bosses in large cities and in the South soon felt the wrath of the high-spirited attorney general. Tampa mob boss Santo Trafficante was among them and found himself at odds with the Kennedy brothers from the beginning. Trafficante's racketeering run-ins with the Kennedys were exacerbated by the continuing intrigue over Cuba and its Communist dictator Fidel Castro.

Trafficante had earlier been used by the CIA in the CIA/Mafia plots to assassinate Castro, so the Tampa (and Florida) mob boss had worked for the government in an agent capacity. It was a story similar to a World War II episode in which the government used

New York mobster Lucky Luciano in the highly successful Operation Underworld which utilized the mafia to prevent espionage and sabotage by the Nazis. Trafficante was part of an executive action program that existed in two phases. The first preceded Kennedy and utilized the Tampa boss, Chicago mobster Sam Giancana, and Los Angeles mobster Johnny Roselli. The second phase dropped Trafficante and Giancana and utilized Roselli.

While Goldfarb never emphasizes the conflicting interests of the war on organized crime and the war against Castro, they proved to be factors which intensified the hatred the mobsters felt for the Kennedys, particularly for Bobby since he not only was the attorney general but because he played a role in the Kennedy vendetta against Fidel Castro. Goldfarb quotes a Jack Anderson column in which Roselli tells Anderson that Trafficante's hatred of the Kennedys led him to become an informer for Castro. Unfortunately, Goldfarb cannot document this association and disregards the fact that Trafficante had an even greater hatred of Castro who seized his gambling operations in Havana. Trafficante's attorney, Frank Ragano, whose memoir, *Mob Lawyer* gives a narrative of the Trafficante legacy, dismisses the "Trafficante as Castro agent" scenario. Ragano, whose own knowledge of the Tampa mob boss is superior to even the CIA's in some respects, claims Trafficante was always anti-Castro. CIA documents from the National Archives in College Park, Maryland, back up this portion of the Ragano scenario.

Ronald Goldfarb's book may have some shortcomings. These are excusable because the release of many federal records of the CIA/Mafia plots and anti-Castro Cuban exile groups have been postponed indefinitely, or at least until the next review period, which is in the second decade of the next century. Goldfarb and fellow RFK whiz kid staffer G. Robert Blakey have both written books on this era and these major figures of organized crime. Blakey, who later served as chief counsel of the House Select Committee on Assassinations, concluded that organized crime members assassinated the president. Goldfarb reaches the same conclusion. In coming to these conclusions, both have relied surreptitiously on Trafficante attorney Frank Ragano. And both have exposed a national crime network which included one of Tampa's own, a man whose own business extended into the darkest corners of U.S. intelligence operations.

Florida Atlantic University

FRANK DEBENEDICTIS

From Opportunity to Entitlement: The Transformation and Decline of Great Society Liberalism. By Gareth Davies. (Lawrence: University of Kansas Press, 1996. xii, 320 pp. Acknowledgments, introduction, notes, bibliography, index. \$35.00 cloth.)

Somewhere in the 1960s liberalism took a fatal turn. Liberalism in the early 1960s was in concert with traditional American philosophy, which emphasized individualism and self-help and eschewed dependency. By the end of the decade, however, liberals began to espouse a policy which guaranteed a minimum income for every American family. In this ambitious study of American welfare policy in the 1960s, Gareth Davies argues that Lyndon Johnson should not bear the blame for this departure but instead points to liberal critics of LBJ's Great Society.

Davies charts this movement to the "income strategy" in a fascinating examination of the 1960s. A number of factors led to this shift, such as the Watts riots, the failures of the Great Society, the Vietnam War, and the general polarization of politics in the later years of the decade. Davies convincingly argues that the crucial change was in both the definition of dependency and in the understanding of the causes of poverty. Liberals came to understand independence as "freedom from want, however achieved" (235). If this meant dependency on the government, so be it. At least recipients were free to live their lives unencumbered by the exigencies of the economic cycle or a racist public which had long denied blacks and other minorities a fair opportunity in the job market. Those on the dole, in other words, were no longer stigmatized.

Davies emphasizes the importance of race in comprehending this shift to the income strategy. The War on Poverty became a war on racism, and the rising black militancy in the middle years of the decade gave rise to the assumption that the poor did not become that way by their own actions but by the inherent racism of American society. By adopting this strategy liberals broke with the traditional American philosophy emphasizing increased opportunities and self-help as conditions for welfare recipients. Liberals were hoping to demolish the dichotomy between the perceived "deserving" (the elderly and disabled) and "undeserving" (the unemployed) poor, but their pursuit of the income strategy alienated many middle- and working-class Americans and actually reinforced the concept.

The strength of this book lies in Davies' depth and breadth of research. But it also illuminates far more than the story of welfare

policy. By examining the changing political climate within which the discourse over policy took place, Davies also provides an intricate analysis of sixties social change. In particular, this volume explains the waning of the New Deal coalition and sheds further light on the decline of the Democrats as the party's diverse elements took different stances on welfare policy.

Elegantly written and solidly researched, this timely offering effectively assesses the transformation of welfare policy. It should be read by anyone interested in the current debate over welfare.

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BOOK NOTES

The University Press of Florida recently published the *Atlas of Maritime Florida* by Roger C. Smith, James J. Miller, Sean M. Kelley, and Linda G. Hardin. The first of its kind, this atlas offers readers a fifty-six-page introduction to 13,000 years of Florida maritime history and geography. The book opens with an overview of the state's physical environment, followed by individual chapters on maritime industries; navigation and ship types; navigational hazards like hurricanes, reefs, and shoals; and shipwrecks. The atlas contains fourteen maps, numerous illustrations and photographs, and a bibliography. For a copy of this paperback atlas, call the University Press of Florida toll free at 1-800-226-3822. *Atlas of Maritime Florida* costs \$9.95.

Charles Scribners Sons is pleased to announce the publication of the *Atlas of Historical County Boundaries: Florida* (1997), the tenth volume in a forty-volume series. County by county, this volume charts the development of the state of Florida. Counties are the fundamental unit of economic, legal, political, and social organization. What began as a local seat of justice evolved into a repository of official information concerning every individual within the county's jurisdiction: from the recording of births to the issuing of marriage certificates and the probating of wills. Though their roles may vary from state to state, counties cover every part of the nation (except Alaska) and nearly all have changed significantly since being created. This atlas is divided into two parts. The first section documents all boundary changes for the entire state. Section two details changes in individual counties. The book also includes a table of county creations, a table of censuses, census outline maps, index, and a bibliography. This very helpful source book is available in hardback for \$125 from Charles Scribner's Sons, 1633 Broadway, New York, NY, 10019-6785. (212) 654-8451.

Eliot Kleinberg, a native Floridian and a staff writer for the *Palm Beach Post*, knows that history is more than the stuff written in books. Kleinberg has traveled the state searching out the most intriguing historic places, and has compiled fifty-seven of his favorite historic haunts in *Historical Traveler's Guide to Florida* (1997). The

book is divided by geographic region. Each entry contains a brief history and information for those interested in visiting the site. The historically curious can read about (and are encouraged to visit) places as different as the Barker House in Ocklawaha, a two-story, 100-year-old home, and site of a 1935 shootout between the notorious Ma Barker and her son, Fred, and federal agents; or Cross Creek, placid refuge of Florida literary treasure Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings. *Historical Traveler's Guide to Florida* is available in paperback for \$14.95 from Pineapple Press, Inc., of Sarasota. Phone: (914) 953-2797.

According to the editors of *The Geology of Florida* (University of Florida Press, 1997), "whether viewed by an astronaut from the window of the Space Shuttle or by a schoolchild on a classroom globe, few natural regions are immediately recognizable as Florida" (xvii). Editors Anthony F. Randazzo, professor of geology at the University of Florida, and Douglas S. Jones, curator and chair of the Department of Natural Sciences at the Florida Museum of Natural History, have compiled the first comprehensive geology of the state of Florida to be published in over thirty years. This up-to-date reference book brings together leading geoscience authorities from academia, state and federal geological surveys, and private industry in a liberally illustrated summary of Florida's geologic history. This important volume contains chapters on the development of the Florida peninsula and panhandle, geomorphology, plate tectonics, geochemistry, hydrogeology, vertebrate and invertebrate paleontology, geologic history, coastal and marine geology, and environmental geology. This four-hundred-page reference book also includes nearly three hundred illustrations, thirteen tables, and a useful bibliography. *The Geology of Florida* is available in hardback from the University Press of Florida for \$39.95. Call toll free 1-800-226-3822.

Barbara Purdy, professor emerita in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Florida, and the late Roy C. Craven, Jr., professor of art emeritus at the same institution, have published *Indian Art of Ancient Florida* (University Press of Florida, 1996), a lush, four-color book that examines the artwork of Florida's Pre-Columbian peoples. It was during the Archaic period (8000 - 4000 B. C.) that the first Florida art pieces were created, and this volume offers "a fine sampling of a unique native American artistic heritage"

(x), from the Paleoindian through the Historic periods. The authors examine artwork constructed of antler and bone, wood, shell, stone, ceramics, and metal. They remind us that "the twentieth-century concept of 'art for art's sake' is [not] valid for preindustrial societies" (xi); the pieces displayed here are both art and artifact, aesthetic objects and anthropological tools. *Indian Art of Ancient Florida* is available in hardback from the University Press of Florida for \$34.95. Call toll free: 1-800-226-3822.

From Fort Payne to Flomaton, and from Sylacauga to Spring Hill, Alabama's railroads crisscrossed the state, transporting raw materials to distant markets and providing one of the keys to the state's economic development. *Alabama's Railroads*, written by Wayne Cline and published by the University of Alabama Press (1997), is the first comprehensive history of the formation of the state's railway system. Through the use of personal accounts, newspaper articles, and government documents, this amply illustrated book examines the creation of Alabama's railways, from the chartering of the Tuscumbia Railway Company in early 1830 to the maturity of the system in the mid-twentieth century. Cline uses accessible, nontechnical language to introduce readers to the pioneers of the state's railroad system. This book is available from the University of Alabama Press in hardback for \$39.95. Write to the press at P.O. Box 870380, Tuscaloosa, AL, 35401. Or call: (205) 348-5180.

The Johns Hopkins University Press proudly announces the issuance of the second edition of *Standing at the Crossroads: Southern Life in the Twentieth Century* by historian Pete Daniel, curator at the National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution. This engaging survey probes the continuity and changes in southern culture in this century. Daniel, born and raised in rural North Carolina, writes knowingly and movingly of southern people and rural landscapes, moving effortlessly from an analysis of stock car racing to a discussion of the impact of air conditioning on southern development. This book is available in paperback for \$14.95 from The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2715 N. Charles Street, Baltimore, MD, 21218.

M. E. Sharpe, Inc., has issued the second edition of *Politics in the New South: Republicanism, Race and Leadership in the Twentieth Cen-*

ture by Richard K. Scher, professor of political science at the University of Florida. Originally published in 1992, *Politics in the New South* is a useful, highly readable, and analytically sophisticated survey written, in the words of the author, "to appeal to a wide range of readers" (xi). This primer on twentieth-century southern politics and political change includes a preliminary chapter on the socioeconomic context of the "old" southern politics; subsequent sections analyze the emergence of southern Republicanism, the impact of the civil rights movement, and changes in southern political leadership. This book is available in hardback (\$64.95) and paperback (\$27.95) from M. E. Sharpe, Inc., 80 Business Park Drive, Armonk, NY 10504. Phone: (914) 273-2106.

Gerald L. K. Smith: Minister of Hate, by Glen Jeansonne, professor of history at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, is now available in paperback from Louisiana State University Press. Originally published in 1988, this full-length biography traces Smith's tempestuous career, from his association with the Louisiana Kingfish, Huey P. Long, in the 1930s to the creation of the anti-Semitic Christian Nationalist Crusade. The paperback edition contains a new preface by the author and a new forward by historian Leo P. Ribuffo. It is available from the LSU Press for \$19.95. Phone: (504) 388-6666.