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## Book Reviews

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## BOOK REVIEWS

*Sixteenth-Century St. Augustine: The People and Their Homes.* By Albert Manucy. (University Press of Florida, 1997. xv, 160 pp. List of figures, maps and table, preface, epilogue, appendix, notes, bibliography, index. \$24.95.)

The late Albert Manucy had a lifelong fascination with the architecture of his native city. From that came *The Houses of St. Augustine, 1565 to 1821* (1962), several years of field research in Spain studying folk architecture at a time (1962, 1973) when such studies were just beginning, and now this book. The work combines what little documentary and graphic information we have about housing in the sixteenth-century town with equally scant archaeological data and the abundant information gleaned from Manucy's studies in Spain. Superbly written, illustrated, and produced, it is a pleasure to read.

After an introduction that recalls the history of interest in historical reconstruction in St. Augustine (a tale easily worth the price of the book), Manucy reviews archaeological research and the earliest days of the town in the 1560s. Somewhat longer chapters follow on the nine wooden forts, on what is known of daily life, and on locally available building materials. The heart of the book are the discussions of how structures and wells and other features were laid out on the town's lots and of three classes of homes that reflect the three different socioeconomic levels into which St. Augustine's society can be divided. In these chapters, Manucy adopted the device of linking actual historical persons with particular socio-economic levels and housing types. This makes the book interesting and appealing to the non-specialist, but the fact is that we have only one clear linkage of status and building type: that of the governor in *circa* 1595, whose two-story board-covered house (of which he complained) is shown on the fort and town plan of that year.

Each chapter is lavishly illustrated with Manucy's own careful drawings of house and lot plans, elevations, and details of construction techniques (as found in Spanish examples). The result is a manual that could be used to reconstruct an imagined sixteenth-century village. And indeed, much of the impetus for this book

arose from just such a project during the 1970s a project that was abandoned by the St. Augustine Restoration Foundation as uneconomical after a great deal of research had been done. The film, *Dream of Empire*, a host of unpublished studies (many cited in this book's bibliography), and this book are among the lasting results. Manucy was a key member of that research team.

This otherwise superb work has two minor flaws. The reconstruction drawings for the fourth and fifth forts (1571-85) (Figures 4.4 and 4.5) are incorrectly captioned as the eighth fort, and the Spanish word *alcalde* is mistranslated as "mayor" rather than its closest English equivalent: "justice of the peace" (110-112).

In sum, this is a beautifully written, illustrated, and produced book, the summation of a life of study and thought. I only regret that Al is not with us to enjoy the pleasure it will give to all who read it. Having been present at its beginnings as sketches in the 1970s, I am glad that my friend and teacher lived to complete it.

*Louisiana State University*

PAUL E. HOFFMAN

*Knights of Spain, Warriors of the Sun: Hernando de Soto and the South's Ancient Chiefdoms.* By Charles Hudson. (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1997. xxii, 561 pp. List of illustrations, preface, acknowledgments, afterword, notes, index. \$34.95 hardcover.)

Hudson's exemplary interdisciplinary study identifies the route followed by Hernando de Soto's entrada and matches the native peoples the expedition encountered to Native American cultures known to exist in the mid-sixteenth century wherever that was possible. It is the fruit of almost two decades of extensive research by Hudson and by many prominent archaeologists over the last quarter of a century. Several of them collaborated with him as students. Hudson is co-author of *Hernando de Soto and the Indians of Florida*, published four years ago, which provided, along with other topics, an in-depth study of de Soto's route through the state of Florida. John R. Swanton's *Final Report of the United States De Soto Expedition Commission*, published in 1939, was the last work on this topic that has the scope of Hudson's volume. But Swanton did not have access to the detailed archaeological knowledge about native sites in the Southeast that is available today.

In two opening chapters Hudson discusses the nature of the separate worlds of early-sixteenth-century Spain and of the Native

American Southeast and de Soto's preparations for the expedition in Spain and Cuba. In the subsequent fifteen chapters he follows the expedition's progress from its Tampa Bay landing site to East Texas, its return to the Mississippi River, and the flight down to the mouth of that river after spending a winter at the as yet unidentified site of Aminoya while building the vessels that would carry the survivors to Mexico. Four of those chapters portray the expedition's experiences and the people among whom they lived during the four winters de Soto's men spent in the Southeast. These encampments were in the Apalachee village of Anhayca, the Chickasaw settlement of Chicaza, at Utiangué on the Arkansas River, probably a few miles downstream from present-day Little Rock, and at Aminoya. In those chapters Hudson skillfully weaves together an account of the expedition's experiences, the native cultures the Spaniards encountered, and the natural environment in the sixteenth-century geographic districts through which they moved.

Two final chapters successively describe the trip onward to Mexico City and events involving the expedition's survivors after it ended, a legal struggle over money between de Soto's wife and his partner, Hernán Ponce de Leon, and the decline of the chiefdoms with which the expedition had come into contact.

Hudson uses the chapter-length afterword to assess the value of the distinct documentary sources for the expedition and translations of them and to discuss the history of research on the route and controversies to which the results of the research have given rise. It includes an effective refutation of Patricia Galloway's arguments that the Gentleman of Elvas's account "is cribbed from Rangel."

The author has substantially kept a pledge made in the preface to present his account in a swiftly moving narrative form by relegating many matters of scholarly interpretation, the discussion of inconsistencies in the sources, and the differing views of other scholars on particular points to the endnotes and the afterword. In dealing with alternative interpretations and people with an avocational interest in the expedition, Hudson has wisely avoided the vituperative tone that marred a few of the articles written by critics of his proposed route.

Although the author states that one of the principal objectives of his book is to delimit de Soto's route "close to the one that the expedition actually followed," he recognizes that future archaeological discoveries of sites at which the expedition stopped may change a few of his conclusions or suggestions. Unless and until

that happens, his work will remain the authoritative one and few will differ substantially with most of his conclusions.

The book's ninety-one illustrations and ten maps greatly enhance its attractiveness and usefulness. On the negative side, while Hudson warns his readers frequently about the need for caution in taking Garcilaso de la Vega's statements at face value, this reader felt that, on occasion, Hudson himself placed too much confidence in the reliability of Garcilaso's account and in the Varner and Varner translation of the same. The index is not as comprehensive as some readers might wish, but those minor shortcomings will not diminish the book's importance as the major source of information on all aspects of this topic for the foreseeable future.

*San Luis Archaeological and Historic Site*

JOHN H. HANN

*The Hernando de Soto Expedition: History, Historiography, and "Discovery" in the Southeast.* Edited by Patricia Galloway. (Lincoln and London: University of Nebraska Press, 1997. xvi, 457 pp. List of illustrations, list of tables, acknowledgments, introduction, index. \$60.00 cloth.)

Patricia Galloway, author of *Choctaw Genesis 1500-1700* (1995) and the editor of previous volumes in the fields of archaeology, ethnohistory, and historiography, has collected nineteen essays about the Hernando de Soto expedition, four of them written or co-authored by herself. With a strong background in languages and comparative literature, Galloway is well known to southeastern scholars as an advocate of modern critical editions and a voice for stricter standards in the use of historical texts. This volume, supported by the Mississippi Historical Society and the Program for Cultural Cooperation between Spain and the United States, is evidence of the growing sophistication of southeastern research surrounding the 450th anniversary of the Soto expedition as compared to the methodological naivete at the time of the 400th, when ethnologist John R. Swanton was commissioned to map the route.

No brief review can do justice to the breadth of interpretation and the variety of data and approaches in the volume, some appearing for the first time and some reprising monographs. Curt Lamar described Soto's meteoric rise in the conquests of Tierra Firme and Peru, where, Lawrence J. Goodman and John R.

Wunder remind us, he left a *mestiza* daughter. In 1537 Charles V named Soto governor of Cuba and *adelantado* of Florida, free to conquer from New Spain to Newfoundland. Ignacio Avellaneda, focusing on logistics and personnel, finds that Soto spent eleven months at Santiago putting together his army of 650 before embarking for Florida in 1539. Over a third of the expedition's 258 survivors signed on in Cuba. As Robert S. Weddle shows, the chronicles of the expedition lack the kind of geographical data that would enable scholars to determine the landing site and reconstruct the route, for good reason: none of the men with Soto was capable of instrument navigation on land. Soon losing touch with his ships, unable to orient himself geographically, mistrustful of guides, he traveled from chieftom to chieftom in the southeastern interior, extorting food and service. At the Mississippi River the *adelantado* died, and Luis de Moscoso Alvarado assumed command of the dwindling army. After marching westward as far as Texas, they returned to the Mississippi, built boats, and followed the coast to Pánuco, which they reached in 1543.

Scholars are still assessing the impact of the invasion upon southeastern chiefdoms. Ann F. Ramenofsky and Patricia Galloway conclude that the expedition introduced at least ten new diseases, only three of which required direct contact; five of them were carried by swine and two by insects. Jay K. Johnson, on the other hand, cautions against holding Europeans accountable for all southeastern sociopolitical devolution. He finds that the Chickasaw shift from river bottoms and mound construction to dispersed settlements on the prairie predated Soto's arrival.

The expedition left little direct documentation. Only one holographic manuscript survives, a brief report by the expedition's royal factor, Luis Hernández de Biedma, who, Ida Altman cautions, had his own point of view and objective. Gonzalo Fernández de Oviedo y Valdés incorporated into his *Historia general de las Indias* much of a diary kept by Soto's secretary Rodrigo de Ranjel. Juan Bautista de Avalle-Arce positions the *Historia* within Oviedo's *oeuvres*, José Rabasa reveals how thoroughly the chronicler disliked the conqueror, and Ralph H. Vigil uses Oviedo to situate Soto in relation to the Spanish struggle for justice in the New World.

In the two other secondary sources, Patricia Galloway finds evidence of intertextuality. The "Fidalgo de Elvas" account published by André de Burgos borrowed from Ranjel, and the highly literary *Florida* by the Inca Garcilaso de la Vega borrowed from Elvas and,

on the principle of “Indian uniformitarianism,” from Inca ethnography (28). Lee Dowling examines Garcilaso’s literary models and his choice of a *mestizo* authorial voice. Martin Malcolm Elbl and Ivana Elbl, uncovering the context of sixteenth-century publishing, identify the Gentlemen of Elvas as André de Vasconcelos and suggest that another hand doctored his soldierly account for the Estremaduran market with speeches and other literary motifs in imitation of García de Resende. As the contributors repeatedly point out, although English translations of the Soto narratives have recently been published in *The De Soto Chronicles* (2 vols., 1993), not one of them has yet been published in a modern critical edition.

The endeavor to reconstruct the Soto route draws fire from all sides. Ross Hassig, in a discussion of the league, concludes that sixteenth-century distance was a function of time and that the only unit that mattered was a full day’s journey. Jack D. Elliott Jr. challenges the practice of projecting nineteenth-century roads three centuries into the past. David Henige, placing Garcilaso’s rhetoric in context, attacks scholars who use “data bytes” from the Inca’s nonfactual text to construct “a composite ‘super-text’” of the expedition’s itinerary and on its basis reconstruct a route otherwise unretrievable (167). The principal object of their fire, Charles Hudson, author of a map of the most probable Soto route, responds that critical standards can be set unrealistically high and that the evidence of intertextuality among the Soto narratives is weak. He and his colleagues used every scrap of information available, including the Juan de la Bandera relation of Juan Pardo’s expeditions of 1566-68, and drew on the expertise of archaeologists in every Soto state.

Taking a historiographical approach to the problem of ethno-historical methodology, Galloway shows how Swanton’s Direct Historical Approach, which consisted of putting together “a narrative reconstruction of the events of the expedition without specific source citation” (285), has been largely replaced by the *Annales* model, which renounces narrative in favor of tabular facts. Neither one, she declares, is appropriate for the analysis of sixteenth-century sources, adamantly narrative and non-tabular. What is needed is a model flexible enough to admit the catalytic event. Clearly, for southeastern Indians in the mid-sixteenth century that event was Soto’s marauding army, moving at the pace of pigs.

*College of Charleston*

AMY TURNER BUSHNELL

*From Pensacola to Belize: An American's Odyssey Through Mexico in 1903.*

By F. F. Bingham. (Bagdad: Patagonia Press, 1997. xviii, 93 pp. List of maps and illustrations, introduction, acknowledgments, dedication, bibliography, index. \$8.95 paper plus tax, plus \$2.00 shipping.)

Frasier Franklin Bingham (1872-1953) came to Pensacola at age eighteen in 1890. He worked as a stenographer and clerk with a local lumber company and eventually became assistant general manager until the company closed in 1930. He then became interested in real estate and developed a reputation as an expert in that field. But Bingham also enjoyed writing.

In 1913 Bingham published *Ashore at Maiden's Walk*, a novel about blockade runners in West Florida during the Civil War. He also wrote an interesting and enjoyable account of his family's summer vacations in a small cabin cruiser entitled *Log of the Peep O'Day: Summer Cruises in West Florida Waters, 1912-1915*. Bryan R. Rucker and Nathan F. Woolsey edited and published this "log" in 1991.

*From Pensacola to Belize* consists of a number of accounts written by Bingham in the summer of 1903 regarding his experiences and travels in Mexico that year. He went to Frontera, Mexico, that summer to recover his ship, the *Richard A. Bingham*, which had been carrying lumber from Pensacola to Belize. Bad weather, however, damaged the ship and forced the captain to take refuge in Frontera. Bingham made the trip from Pensacola to Mexico City, and then to Veracruz by rail. From Veracruz to Frontera he traveled by boat.

Bingham's account is interesting and humorous. He describes the terrain, the cities, the people (both Mexicans and foreigners), a bullfight, the yellow fever epidemic and the hordes of mosquitoes encountered, and gives a brief insight into Mexican politics of that day. Bingham discusses some of the local officials in the towns he visited. Eleven years later, in 1914, as a result of the Mexican Revolution, Bingham edited his 1903 essays. The *Pensacola Journal* published them in twelve consecutive Sunday editions, May 10 to July 26, 1914.

Dr. Rucker wrote an introduction which places Bingham's account in its proper historical context. He includes some footnotes to help clarify and properly identify some of the people and places. Also included are pictures of the Bingham family, some illustrations, and maps.



This is an interesting account— sometimes humorous and sometimes serious— of Bingham’s travels in the summer of 1903. You can read it in an evening before or after your favorite sporting event. I believe you will enjoy it.

*University of West Florida*

WILLIAM S. COKER

*Edison in Florida: The Green Laboratory.* By Olav Thulesius. (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 1997. xii, 150 pp. Introduction, chronology, photographs, illustrations, notes, index. \$29.95.)

Thomas Edison, whom contemporaries called the Wizard of Menlo Park and whom biographer Neil Baldwin recently described as “the Inventor of the Twentieth Century,” wintered in Florida during the years between his first visit in 1885 and his death in the fall of 1931. During this span of five decades, Edison and his family interacted with their Florida neighbors and the environment, making a significant impact on both the “snowbirds” and the region. Sadly, little scholarly work has attempted to document Edison’s tenure on the rough frontier of Florida’s west coast. Olav Thulesius seeks to fill the gap with a narrative that describes Edison’s life in Florida while placing specific emphasis on his research in the “Green Laboratory.” His premise is that the foresighted Edison demonstrated “green” research that seeks to protect and promote ecology and the environment. Regrettably the author’s success in this ambitious endeavor is limited. The book is timely but does not successfully acquaint the reader with Edison’s life in Florida. It also fails to clearly demonstrate that Edison’s research was indeed “green.” Further, so many of his assumptions and conclusions are based on secondary material and non-contemporary reports that the accuracy of his work is called into question.

From the title, it would be logical to assume *Edison in Florida* deals predominantly with the inventor’s experiences. The first four chapters detail life in Florida prior to the turn of the century. The author provides few details of Edison’s visits to the state. The same is true for the remaining chapters which comment upon the changes to southwest Florida’s landscape, but not upon Edison’s role in the larger community.

The subtitle, *The Green Laboratory*, seeks to promote Edison as a “green” inventor, one who advocated the protection and promo-

tion of the environment in his personal life and experimentation. This argument is flawed from the onset. First, Edison's original electrical laboratory was not literally green and there is no cited evidence that its purpose was even marginally environmental. Second, the book fails to prove that Edison was personally environmentally minded. Many references are based on Edison's wife's and son Theodore's interest in nature and conservation, rather than his own. Third, there is a complete failure to demonstrate that Edison's rubber research, a search for a domestic source of natural rubber conducted in the second laboratory, the rubber laboratory, was motivated by environmental sensitivity. Finally, the inventor's decades of experimentation with dangerous toxic substances such as radium is completely ignored.

Thulesius, a professor and vice dean for research in medicine, presents Edison best within his own fields of expertise. Although some would disagree with his portrayal of the inventor as a shaman-type "medicine man," the chapter containing information on the inventor's experiments with x-rays and electric shock therapy is generally better documented and the author seems more comfortable with the material. The same cannot be said for the "The Nobel Prize," a chapter dedicated to a prize that Edison never received.

The greatest disappointment is Thulesius' documentation. Although the author uses a variety of sources, few are primary. He relies instead on secondary materials, many written years or often decades later by persons with limited contact with the inventor. He virtually ignores plentiful contemporary newspaper accounts, personal correspondence, and the few personal interviews with the inventor. Many of the secondary sources are improperly documented. Frequently the titles are incorrectly cited and quotations are paraphrased without proper documentation. In a few cases the footnotes reflect information not contained in the original source. This is especially disconcerting in the cases where Thulesius has provided what appears to be original scholarship. Without readers being able to acquire and evaluate the sources, the information cannot be considered credible. *Edison in Florida: The Green Laboratory* succeeds in bringing an important subject to the fore; however, it fails to accomplish its premise.

Fort Myers

MICHELE WEHRWEIN ALBION

*Al Burt's Florida*. By Al Burt. (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 1997. xi, 182 pp. Foreword, preface, prelude, illustrations, bibliography, index. \$24.95 cloth.)

The prophet Isaiah cried in the wilderness: "Woe to those who join house to house, who add field to field, until there is no more room, and you are made to dwell alone in the midst of the land" (Isaiah 5:8).

Al Burt is a modern-day prophet, crying out from the wilderness— the Big Scrub country east of Gainesville, just north of the "Tropic of Cracker." Burt's latest book is half celebration and half lament. His love is Florida, and his grief is the wanton path his love has followed.

This book is based on essays Burt wrote and speeches he gave between 1973 and 1995 when he was roving columnist for the *Miami Herald*. Those who have read his 1984 book *Becalmed in the Mullet Latitudes* will recognize familiar names and places. Most of the places are small and out of the way. Most of the people are ordinary, extraordinary folk. His heroes are people like Nat Reed, John Pennekamp, and Marjory Stoneman Douglas who loved Florida enough to save parts of it. He also admires men like landscape artist James Hutchinson and folklorist Gamble Rogers, who also preserved aspects of Florida.

The book consists of ten chapters, but these are subdivided into loosely connected vignettes of one to six pages that can be consumed in one bite.

Burt's prose is a pleasure to read. He strings together simple words to tell stories and paint word pictures that end up as superlative reading. He has an exquisite feel for the land, and he carries his reader from the limestone depths of the peninsula, up through the marl and the sand, into the land of gopher tortoises, rat snakes, and sand pines, and finally into an atmosphere spiked with bugs and stirred by hurricanes.

The evils that bedevil Florida, in Burt's eyes, are the rapacious chasing after empty riches, the desecration of the earth, and the never-ending pursuit of "progress." The result has been an impoverishment of the land— loss of beauty, loss of the warmth of community, loss of soul. Floridians have swapped their birthright for a giant get-rich-quick scheme.

Burt's perspective is that of an old-time Floridian who was here when the post-World War II avalanche of population growth broke loose. He reminds us that alienation is not confined just to Yankees

who have moved to Florida and have never felt at home because it isn't what they left behind "up North." Today Florida isn't "home" to native Floridians either because it isn't what it used to be "back then." The Florida of six-lane interstates, condo canyons, and Disney World is a far different land from the Florida of the Dixie Highway, clap-board beach cottages, and the Alligator Farm. Today many native Floridians find themselves homesick exiles in the land where they were born.

Al Burt's Florida is Old Florida— the Florida that once was and now is rapidly passing away. Perhaps the greatest loss, thinks Burt, is the sense of "place." Today's Florida is too homogenized, sanitized, standardized, modernized: could be anyplace, might as well be no place. Burt observes that Floridians once bought land by the section, then by the acre, and then by the lot. Now we buy shares of time in a condominium. It's a measure of our alienation from the land.

Burt fancies the Florida of sandspurs, tin roofs, screen porches— rather than the Florida of well-manicured lawns and air conditioned interiors. Burt's Floridians eat fried mullet, not quiche. Yet he readily admits the "stumped-toe" reality that Old Florida was often a place of loneliness, ignorance, poverty, and prejudice. But, he adds, "I never felt Florida should have to give up its sense of place and identity to have paved roads and indoor plumbing."

There are no villains in Burt's book, only faceless forces like "development." There is no rancor towards newcomers— "snow-birds" are just another exotic species of Floridian.

Al Burt is a melancholy prophet, worried about the future of his homeland. He wants converts, and invites his readers to get out and travel Florida's byways to experience the magical places. Maybe even to do something like the heroes of his book to save Florida— before it is all gone.

*Flagler College*

THOMAS GRAHAM

*Across Fortune's Tracks: A Biography of William Rand Kenan Jr.* By Walter E. Campbell. (Chapel Hill and London: University of North Carolina Press, 1996. xvi, 417 pp. Acknowledgments, photographs, figures, map, illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$34.95 hardcover.)

While the towering achievements of Henry Flagler have been chronicled in books, articles, and symposia, relatively little is

known about the family of his third wife, Mary Lilly Kenan Flagler. This fact is somewhat surprising since William Rand Kenan Jr., a younger brother of Mary Flagler, was critical to the successful operation of the vast Flagler empire. Scientist, inventor, hotel builder, business tycoon, and philanthropist, Kenan was a man of lifelong achievement, as chronicled in this new biography by historian Walter Campbell.

William Kenan was the scion of an old North Carolina family. Born in 1872 in Wilmington, Kenan entered the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1890 as a science major and also took an active role in athletics and student government. While Kenan's contributions to the university as a student were manifold, nothing compared with his achievements in the area of science. A precocious student, Kenan worked with Professor Francis Preston Venable, one of the South's leading scientists, on a series of seminal experiments involving calcium carbide and acetylene for illumination. The pair discovered a relatively cheap and easy method of producing acetylene with a flame more brilliant than that produced by coal gas, heretofore the major source of illumination. Soon after leaving Chapel Hill, young Kenan served as one of the superintendents of a plant that manufactured calcium carbide commercially for the first time in America. Still in his mid-twenties, Kenan was already on his way to a life of accomplishment, wealth, and travel.

After a brief period of employment with the newly formed Union Carbide company, Kenan took a position with the Flagler organization at a time when Henry Flagler and Mary Lilly Kenan, thirty-seven years his junior, were planning to marry. Soon after their union in 1901, Kenan created a power plant for Flagler's posh Breakers Hotel in exclusive Palm Beach. Next, he designed and equipped new water and power facilities at several other Flagler hostleries. Impressed by Kenan's intelligence and work ethic, Flagler remarked that "there are very few men of his age who have had as much experience and who are as competent as he." Soon after these accomplishments, Kenan joined the board of directors of Flagler's Florida East Coast Railway.

Before his death in 1913, Flagler appointed Kenan trustee of his estate. The great industrialist left his widow an estate valued at more than \$100 million. But this wealth did not elevate Mary's spirits. Instead, the loss of beloved family members, along with her own deep insecurities and loneliness, exacerbated her dependency on alcohol. In 1916, the troubled heiress married Judge Robert Worth

Bingham, a longtime acquaintance; a year later she was dead. The author persuasively debunks the familiar claim that Mary Lilly was poisoned by the Bingham family. Instead, he argues that her death came from heart problems and an overall deterioration of her body assisted by alcoholic binges. William Kenan and Mary's two surviving sisters received between \$50 and \$60 million from her estate. By then, Kenan had become head of most of the Flagler enterprises.

As the great Florida land boom swept the Sunshine State in the mid-1920s the Kenan-led Flagler system flexed its muscles, double-tracking the Florida East Coast Railway, upgrading other existing facilities, and building such new structures as the stunning Breakers Hotel. The boom's collapse in 1926 and the ensuing economic downturn brought severe problems for Kenan and his companies. Many of the old Flagler hotels closed; the FEC Railway fell into receivership, and the Overseas Railroad, which linked the Florida Keys to the mainland, was destroyed by the devastating hurricane of 1935. Subsequent decades also proved problematic for the Flagler system, especially the long, bitter, and ultimately unsuccessful struggle with Ed Ball, a trustee for the powerful DuPont interests, for control of the railroad.

On the other hand, Kenan oversaw the impressive development of his Randleigh Farm, a 350-acre dairy farm near Lockport, New York, where he conducted scientific experiments on his prize cattle. The financier's wealth and philanthropy, especially toward his alma mater, grew. At his death in 1965, William Rand Kenan Jr. left an estate valued at \$160 million, with \$95 million of this sum earmarked for the University of North Carolina. The Kenan name graces the football stadium, many buildings, and academic programs on the verdant campus in Chapel Hill. Indeed, as Walter Campbell notes, the beneficence of the Kenan family, beginning with Mary Lilly's munificent bequests, helped transform the university into a first-rate research institution.

For a person of such accomplishment, Kenan was also insecure and frustrated. Above all else, Kenan wanted to be taken seriously as a scientist. Additionally, the wealthy North Carolinian wished to remove himself from the giant shadow cast by Henry Flagler. Toward these ends, Kenan embarked on a series of ambitious writing projects. In 1938, Kenan began writing *The Discovery and Identification of Calcium in the United States*. He also authored nine editions of the *History of Randleigh Farm* and five editions of *Incidents by the Way*, his autobiography. Each of these works was privately printed.

Exhaustively researched and richly detailed, Walter Campbell's *Across Fortune's Tracks: A Biography of William Rand Kenan Jr.* represents a superb study of an individual who quietly helped to shape the economic history of Florida in the twentieth century. Additionally, Campbell is to be commended for his deftness in explaining the many arcane aspects of Kenan's financial dealings and the empire over which he ruled.

*Historical Association of Southern Florida*

PAUL S. GEORGE

*Filibusters and Expansionists: Jeffersonian Manifest Destiny, 1800-1821.*

By Frank Lawrence Owsley Jr. and Gene A Smith. (Tuscaloosa: The University of Alabama Press, 1997. xi, 241 pp. Preface, introduction, notes, bibliography, index. \$29.95 cloth.)

*Filibusters and Expansionists* concerns American penetration into Spanish North America during the Jefferson, Madison, and Monroe administrations, when the United States acquired in piecemeal fashion the Spanish provinces of West and East Florida— an area including coastal and adjacent reaches in today's Mississippi, Alabama, and eastern Louisiana in addition to all of the present Florida. As part of this expansionist pressure against Spanish holdings, American settlers infiltrated Texan borderlands as well as the Floridas and participated in uprisings against Spanish authorities. Additionally, United States adventurers ("filibusters") conducted illegal military expeditions— sometimes as affiliates of Mexican revolutionaries— into Spanish domains, and American military units seized Spanish territory, quashed Native Americans and runaway slaves resisting United States hegemony in the Gulf region, and intermittently collaborated with filibusters.

Owsley and Smith provide balanced treatments of the West Florida insurrection of 1810; the 1812-13 Magee-Gutiérrez expedition into Texas; General James Wilkinson's takeover of the Mobile district as well as Andrew Jackson's temporary occupation of Pensacola and Indian affairs during the War of 1812; George Mathew's 1812-13 "Patriot Revolution" in East Florida ("The First Spanish-American War"); the United States Army's reduction of a maroon, free black, and Choctaw bastion ("Negro Fort") at a former British post on the Apalachicola River (1816); the successive occupations of Amelia Island by Gregor MacGregor and Luis-Michel Aury that

led to the Monroe administration's decision in 1818 to seize the place; Jackson's infamous invasion of Florida that same year; and post-War of 1812 American filibustering escapades in Texas. In the process, they interject the intrigues of a kaleidoscopic cast of colorful if sometimes minor characters operating in a remarkably fluid international situation, such as former French Napoleonic generals Jean Joseph Amable Humbert and Ironée Amélot de Lacroix, U.S. State Department agent William Shaler, and the Baratarian privateer Jean Laffitte. The authors illuminate the Northeast's sectional resistance to Gulf coast expansionism, clarify boundary disputes and settlements (such as the never ratified "Treaty of the Neutral Ground" of 1806 regarding Texas's borderlands), and contextualize their account in terms of American-British-Spanish policy and diplomacy, highlighting the significance of Britain's refusal after the War of 1812 to support Spanish or Native American resistance to United States extension. United States authorities never enforced Article Nine of the Treaty of Ghent, which would have restored lands to Indians allied with Britain during the conflict.

Owsley and Smith emphasize that the need of American interior farmers for unrestricted river outlets to the Gulf of Mexico east of the Mississippi River impelled United States expansion, explaining how the Mobile Act of 1804 reflected this concern. They argue that although Jefferson, Madison, and Monroe sought United States extension without war, they were so ruthless in their means that we should discard residual "pristine" (2) stereotypes of them. Madison, especially, and Monroe while serving as Madison's secretary of state, supported filibustering into and subversion within Spanish domains if it was convenient, but disavowed their own agents when the linkages became disadvantageous. The authors contend that the 1840s expansionist ideology of Manifest Destiny surfaced in embryonic form in the Jeffersonian years, and apply the kind of safety-valve explanation to Jeffersonian expansionism that Thomas R. Hietala attached to later expansionism in *Manifest Design* (1985): thus, Madison's concept of the pursuit of happiness envisioned postponing industrialization by means of territorial growth.

Much of *Filibusters and Expansionists* rings familiar. Early-twentieth-century historians especially, such as Isaac J. Cox, Julius W. Pratt and Harris Gaylord Warren, but recent authors too (e.g., Robert V. Remini, *Andrew Jackson and the Course of American Empire* [1977]), have plowed the ground of early-nineteenth-century United States adventurism in the Spanish borderlands. Warren's



*The Sword Was Their Passport* (1943) certainly exposed Madison's complicity in filibustering. Richard W. Van Alstyne (*The Rising American Empire*, [1960]) and other scholars have previously highlighted the expansionist vision of America's Founding Fathers. However, *Filibusters and Expansionists* benefits from fresh research in Spanish and British (as well as American) archives. It represents a reliable, concise synthesis, assisted by six maps, that pulls together the strands of prior scholarship and clarifies a complex chapter in United States history that is unfortunately glossed over in our textbooks. Given that half of the book illuminates Florida's history, *Filibusters and Expansionists* should meet an especial welcome from readers of this journal.

Purdue University

ROBERT E. MAY

*A Woman's War: Southern Women, Civil War, and the Confederate Legacy.*

Edited by Edward D. C. Campbell Jr. and Kym S. Rice. (Richmond and Charlottesville: The Museum of the Confederacy and the University Press of Virginia, 1997. xvi, 264 pp. A centennial note, foreword, notes, suggestions for further reading, suggestions for further research, index, notes of contributors, acknowledgments. \$24.95 paper.)

The purpose of this book is to present, on three levels, information about Southern women's experiences in the American Civil War. First, the premier historians of women and the era have presented essays from their own primary research about Southern women, black and white, in the war. Second, historians of the post-Reconstruction South show how elite white women constructed a history that was in line with their dedication to the Lost Cause. Further, they explore how the understanding of that history informed political debate on seemingly unrelated issues, such as the question of woman's suffrage. Third, the book accompanied an exhibit on Southern women in the Civil War at the Museum of the Confederacy in its centennial year. Almost every page contains photographs or illustrations of museum artifacts, including a relic made from the hair of Robert E. Lee and other Confederate officers, secession cockades, battle flags, clothing, monuments, letters, and books. In addition, the museum's collections are annotated in the section entitled "Suggestions for Further Research." One chapter is devoted

to the presentation of letters, diaries, petitions, and memoirs of Southern women from this and other institutions' collections.

Drew Gilpin Faust, Thavolia Glymph, and George C. Rable wrote the first essay, which refutes the picture of Confederate women who "stood like heroines, firm, steadfast, and constant" (ix). Rather, they show that women wavered in their support of the Confederacy depending on the region from which they hailed, their socioeconomic status, their race, and the progress of the war. Poorer women felt the burdens of absent spouses and siblings more than did wealthier women. African American women faced the same physical dangers but viewed the war differently than did their mistresses.

In the second chapter, "Into the Trackless Wilderness," Joan Cashin examines the refugee experience for white women. She details how the social structure of the antebellum South limited the movement of unescorted white women, whether on a trip to church or to visit her relatives in another state. Dr. Cashin also describes the attachment of Southern white women to home and material possessions, which wartime conditions forced them to leave. She examines differences among women, depending on socio-economic status, location, and duration of flight and exile from home. She portrays the women's emotional state as they faced physical trauma and deprivation and concludes that after the war, rather than put energy into reforms, as was the case in the North, Southern women focused on reconstructing their households destroyed by war.

In the third chapter, "This Species of Property," Thavolia Glymph looks more closely at the experience of female slave contrabands. She finds that African American women refugees, by choice or conditions, faced hardship and hostility as much as freedom. Resentment from former owners, as well as from Yankee soldiers, translated into acts of violence against slave women who aided the enemies of their masters or flocked to the blue army to escape from slavery. Dr. Glymph shows how slave women understood the war ultimately as one of liberation.

In "Voices from the Tempest: Southern Women's Wartime Experience," the editors present primary documents pertaining to black and white women from Alabama, Louisiana, Virginia, Mississippi, and Georgia, taken from the Library of Congress, the National Archives, and several museums and historical societies throughout the South. Especially riveting are the claim applica-

tions from former female slaves trying to recover property taken from them by Yankees or Confederates during the war.

John M. Coski and Amy R. Feely, in "A Monument to Southern Womanhood: The Founding Generation of the Confederate Museum," trace the origins of the institution one hundred years ago. After the struggles of Yankee occupation and Richmond's use of the building as a school following Reconstruction, a group of elite white women formed the Confederate Memorial Literary Society. They did this to legally secure the building to preserve the history they feared was eluding generations of children and young people born after the war. Coski and Feely chronicle the women's fundraising activities and political struggles with the rival United Daughters of the Confederacy and Confederate veterans groups for primacy as preservers of the Lost Cause. They also show how the ladies consciously constructed the "true" history by accepting for the museum's collections only those materials that reflected a united Confederacy and wartime loyalty. The women adamantly refuse to memorialize themselves, insisting that their purpose was to honor the men who fought and died for the Cause.

"Divided Legacy: The Civil War Traditions and 'the Woman Question,' 1870-1920" by Marjorie Spruill Wheeler examines how both southern suffragists and anti-suffragists adopted the rhetoric of the Lost Cause to promote their goals. As the national suffrage amendment came closer to ratification, southerners found themselves seemingly engaged in another battle over states' rights with both sides losing. Southern suffragists were unhappy because it was not their men who gave them the vote as they had wished. Anti-suffragists were angry because, as in the case of the fifteenth amendment, the national law superceded their individual state laws.

Reflecting the most recent scholarship in the field of southern women's history from the Civil War through the Progressive Era, this book can serve as an introduction to the field for the novice, as well as for the seasoned historian. The vast amount of research yet to be done is highlighted by the authors and this volume points readers in the direction of very valuable material for research. As every state that joined or supported the Confederacy was represented with a room in the museum when it first opened, there are materials available for the researcher in Florida history among the museum's collections.

*St. Cloud State University*

MARY ELIZABETH GLADE

*Tokens of Affection: The Letters of a Planter's Daughter in the Old South.*

Edited by Carol Bleser. (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1996. xxxiv, 403 pp. Preface, acknowledgments, editorial practices, introduction, family members and other principals, map, bibliography, index. \$45.00 cloth.)

Historians are fascinated by the women of the Old South. Each year, more studies, letters, and diaries appear, providing glimpses into their intimate worlds. *Tokens of Affection: The Letters of a Planter's Daughter in the Old South* continues this trend.

Born in 1808, Maria Bryan was the daughter of a planter in Hancock County, Georgia. She remained at home after her sister Julia's marriage, helping her ailing mother care for younger siblings. Maria's sudden marriage to an army engineer took her to New Orleans, but she was soon widowed. Grieving, she returned to take up her duties on the family estate. She traveled for her health but remained plagued by loneliness. A second marriage was loveless, and Maria devoted most of her time to caring for her father and educating Julia's many offspring. A lively correspondent, Maria penned numerous letters to Julia, of which 155 remain. Maria left behind no children or estate at her sudden death in 1844, but she did bequeath a splendid legacy of her thoughts, written in strictest confidence. Fortunately for historians, Julia failed to heed Maria's request to burn her letters.

Carol Bleser, who also serves as the general editor of the *Southern Voices from the Past* series, to which this volume belongs, brings a deft touch to her work. Her opening chapters, which include the history of the collection, a brief explanation of her editing techniques, and a general introduction to the time period and major characters, are well written and provide necessary information. Short notes between various letters point out important moments and help make connections between Maria and her relations. Bleser clears up confusion, yet allows Maria to speak for herself and does not impose irrelevant digressions from her tale.

The letters are mainly concerned with the domestic world of Maria and her kin. Remarkably well read, Maria sprinkles her witty messages with quotes, poetry, and biblical allusions. Readers can learn much about the social scene in antebellum Georgia by sharing in Maria's gossipy accounts of vivacious belles and gallant gentlemen. They can also be amazed at the persistence of illness in the Bryan family, a theme that is touched upon in almost every epistle.

Generational conflicts involving rebellious children and greedy kinfolk are discussed, and it may be somewhat reassuring to modern readers to learn that dysfunctional families are not necessarily a product of the twentieth century. Maria's letters also provide insight into attitudes about class, crime, religion, and the hazards of travel. Bleser's observation that Maria's letters remind her of novels by Jane Austen is certainly an astute one. Readers seeking a parallel in America to Austen's England would do well to look here.

Maria's world was private rather than public, an important consideration to remember. Though she comments on the events taking place in Sparta, Augusta, and her home at Mt. Zion, she rarely mentions larger areas or issues. A trip to the North reveals more about her brother's flirtations than about the famous Americans she met at the spas. Slaves are mentioned, sometimes with great fondness, but there is little reflection on Maria's part about the morality of the institution. Though she was a young bride in New Orleans, Maria does not thoroughly sketch the city. Of course, Maria did not plan on having her letters dissected more than a hundred years after her death, and the things she wrote about were the things her sister was interested in: births, illness, deaths, marriages, who went to church, and who went to jail.

As a social history of a small place in time, *Tokens of Affection* is a worthwhile book, a rare and often poignant glimpse into the life of a privileged southern woman. Though not as far reaching or thoughtful as some of the more famous diaries, such as Mary Chesnut's, this work is carefully edited and is a notable selection. It does not mention Florida, except as a destination for some of Maria's friends, but it is an interesting comparison to some of the memoirs written by Florida women, such as Ellen Call Long's *Florida Breezes* or Susan Bradford Eppes' *Through Some Eventful Years*.

Wofford College

TRACY JEAN REVELS

*For Cause & Comrades: Why Men Fought in the Civil War.* By James M. McPherson. (New York: Oxford University Press, 1997. xviii, 237 pp. Preface, acknowledgments, appendix, a note on sources, notes, index. \$25.00 hardcover.)

For students of the American Civil War, the name of James M. McPherson, the George Henry Davis '86 Professor of American History at Princeton University, is a familiar one. The author of

eleven books on Civil War-related topics, McPherson won the 1989 Pulitzer Prize for his now-classic *Battle Cry of Freedom*. Given such credentials, any new work by this renowned historian almost certainly will offer a substantive contribution to scholarship. That is the case with his current book, *For Cause & Comrades: Why Men Fought in the Civil War*.

What McPherson attempts here is to reach into the minds of the men most fiercely engaged in Civil War fighting to determine what motivated them. As the author puts it, "Why did so many of them fight like bulldogs?" (10). To accomplish his purpose McPherson delved deeply into Civil War archives and family collections, reading 25,000 personal letters and 249 diaries. He believes that, roughly speaking, they represent a cross section of sentiment on both sides of the lines.

While the study provides much relevant and even poignant detail, the conclusions offer few surprises. McPherson notes that modern readers may have difficulty understanding the mindsets of Civil War fighters, and he often compares and contrasts his discoveries with those of researchers of World Wars I and II and the Korean and Vietnamese Wars to furnish common ground for comprehension. In the end, he finds that "convictions of duty, honor, patriotism, and ideology functioned as the principal sustaining motivations of Civil War soldiers, while the impulses of courage, self-respect, and group cohesion were the main sources of combat motivation." Nonetheless, morale rested on "a firm base of support in the homes and communities from which these citizen soldiers came" (131).

Complications abounded. Morale and motivation waxed and waned. *Rage militaire* (17) dominated the conflict's opening months but soon cooled. Morale for winners ran high; morale for losers ebbed. Draftees and bonus men may have served, but they did so with far less vigor than early volunteers. Defending their home ground and way of life charged up Confederates, while emancipation and the example of courageous African American soldiers inspired northerners. McPherson examines each of these elements and more in detail.

That McPherson has restricted his focus so narrowly may trouble some readers. His interest centers on the soldiers most motivated to fight, but his text implies that the real story is how many desired not to do so. He quotes evidence that skulkers and stragglers depleted many combat units to shadows of their former

selves. He observes that both sides soon felt little compunction about herding men back into the lines at bayonet point. Some angered comrades simply killed reluctant warriors.

The author also appears to undercount persons involuntarily in service. He insists, for example, that "most Union and Confederate soldiers were neither long-term regulars nor draftees" (5). Yet, the Confederacy adopted its conscription law as early as April 1862. If Florida serves as any example, after April 1862 draft law enforcement served as the primary motivating force for Confederate military service, as conscription agents combed the state to herd reluctant men into the ranks. Changes in 1864 intensified the situation.

To keep such men from deserting, commanding officers held formal executions intended to warn others. Sometimes the results were disastrous. Perhaps the most famous Florida example came after Columbia County's William Keen failed to return from a furlough. He met death at the hands of an Army of Tennessee firing squad. The execution prompted numerous of Keen's relations to desert and caused deep resentments among fellow Florida draftees.

The men who fought valiantly on both sides of the Civil War deserve to have their heroism, sacrifice, and devotion recognized and honored for what it was. James McPherson has accomplished that with this book. Perhaps, though, we now should focus on those who did not want to fight but who, with their families, paid a supreme price when compelled to do so.

*Tampa Bay History Center*

CANTER BROWN JR.

*The Wilderness Campaign.* Edited by Gary W. Gallagher. Volume IV of the *Military Campaigns of the Civil War Series*. (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1997. xv, 283 pp. Introduction, bibliographic essay, list of contributors, index. \$29.95 hardcover.)

In the hours between May 5-6, 1864, Generals Ulysses S. Grant and Robert E. Lee met in battle for the first time. It occurred in the Virginia woods near the Rapidan and Rappahanock Rivers. For Grant, not withdrawing after a battle, as had all of his predecessors, became the primary goal. At the same time, Lee sought desperately to avoid a crushing defeat similar to that of the previous July. More importantly, however, the Wilderness Campaign demonstrated to

both Union and Confederate leaders the futility of trying to win the war in a single decisive battle.

In *The Wilderness Campaign*, the latest volume in the *Military Campaigns of the Civil War Series*, readers are treated to the scholarship of some of today's foremost Civil War historians. Under the editorial direction of Gary W. Gallagher, these authors contribute eight essays on various topics including battle preparation and the battle itself, as well as penetrating accounts of the men who led the battles and a provoking essay explaining the importance of the Northern press. By examining such diverse topics, these historians ensure readers the opportunity to understand one of the most confusing and often debated events in the Civil War.

Brooks D. Simpson begins this insightful study by examining the importance of the Northern press and the role it played in the battle. The press, Simpson asserts, excited Northerners and caused them to believe that the Wilderness could bring the war to a close. Northerners who embraced this deal were, therefore, disappointed to learn otherwise as the war continued for nearly another year. While readers are certain to enjoy Simpson's essay, they are also likely to desire an account concerning the importance of the Southern press.

Illuminating battle preparations, Gary W. Gallagher describes the extraordinary belief Lee's men had in their leader despite severe food shortages and other dilemmas. John J. Hennessy, meanwhile, disputes Grant's alleged role as the Union's genius and restores Meade as the true architect of the Union Army. Hennessy's questioning of Grant's and Sherman's significance, combined with his assertion that Meade is the more important of the three because he reorganized the Union Army, is likely to stir much debate. Such a contention, moreover, will draw readers back to Simpson's essay in which he portrays the selection of Grant as head of the Union Army as Lincoln's best chance for re-election.

Examining some of the men who led troops into the Wilderness, Gordon C. Rhea, Peter S. Carmichael, and Carol Reardon each offer a fresh interpretation of leaders such as Philip H. Sheridan, James H. Wilson, Richard S. Ewell, A. P. Hill, and the lesser-known Lewis A. Grant. In a convincing manner, Rhea explains that Grant failed to defeat Lee in their first encounter not because of his own doing but because of the inexperience, disobedience, and carelessness of Sheridan and Wilson. Carmichael, meanwhile, vindicates Ewell's and Hill's actions at Gettysburg and portrays them



as competent leaders at the Wilderness. Perhaps the most interesting of the three essays, however, is Carol Reardon's interpretation of the often overlooked Vermonter Lewis A. Grant. Her depiction of Grant reminds readers of the importance of those who have not yet found the spotlight.

Robert K. Krick and Robert E. L. Krick have each written splendid essays that achieve the seemingly impossible task of clearly explaining a complex battle. Their articles are written so well that even readers who profess not to enjoy battle accounts will find themselves fascinated.

Overall this book achieves success in many areas. It is well researched and equally important, it is readable. Although one can find little to criticize, at least one additional suggestion merits offering, in particular for those reading this journal. While seemingly every regiment is mentioned in the eight essays, the authors have apparently forgotten that Floridians also fought in the Wilderness Campaign. Although Gallagher mentions the battle of Olustee as a Confederate morale booster, he and his fellow writers neglect to mention that Florida soldiers, facing the end of their enlistment contracts, signed a petition in the snowy woods of Virginia in January 1864 agreeing to remain in the war until the Confederacy won its independence or suffered the final defeat. Many of those soldiers, having fallen at the Wilderness, never saw either event transpire.

Such minor weaknesses, however, do not detract from the value of the book. *The Wilderness Campaign*, undebatably, deserves careful reading by any serious student of the Civil War.

*University of Central Florida*

ANTHONY IACONO

*The Cause Lost: Myths and Realities of the Confederacy.* By William C. Davis. (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 1996. xii, 224 pp. List of illustrations, introduction, notes, index. \$24.95 cloth.)

William C. Davis is one of the most prolific Civil War historians working in the field today. He has treated readers with biographies of John C. Breckinridge and Jefferson Davis, and monographs on a variety of Civil War topics. His latest book, *The Cause Lost: Myths and Realities of the Confederacy* is a compilation of essays written over the course of the last twenty years. The results are valuable, as they give insight into Davis's own perspective on the Confederacy, as well as illuminate certain neglected aspects of the Confederate experience.

Davis divides the book into four parts. The first section examines the relationship between Jefferson Davis and senior Confederate generals. According to Davis, the Confederate president was an idealistic, hard-working man who was fully aware that he was in a position beyond his capabilities. Davis brought insecurity, indecisiveness, and stubbornness to his office, which led to conflicts with congressional leaders, state governors, and military officials. These personality traits led to poor relations with senior military commanders. The Confederate president was “too patient with [Joseph E.] Johnson for far too long and probably not patient for long enough with [Pierre Gustav Toutant] Beauregard” (34). Still, he was able to find one commander he trusted absolutely. Robert E. Lee was not only a brilliant leader, but, argues historian Davis, knew how to deal with and compensate for his commander-in-chief’s inadequacies. As a result, “Davis and Lee formed a model civil-military team surpassing any other of the war” (50).

In Part Two, Davis focuses on segments of the Confederate war effort he believes have been neglected by other historians. His essay on the siege of Charleston is informative but fails to place the battle in larger context. The remaining two essays on fighting in the Trans-Mississippi theater are interesting but fail to acknowledge important recent work on the subject. Still, Davis is correct in stating that the Trans-Mississippi needs further scholarly attention.

Part Three is more interpretative. One provocative essay examines waning Southern support of the war effort as the pressures of the conflict came increasingly to bear on the civilian population. Students of this controversial topic will be interested in, but not in complete agreement with, Davis’s idea that Southerners had lost the will to fight by the end of 1863, and that this loss of will foreordained Confederate defeat. In another essay, Davis argues that John C. Breckinridge was the most effective Confederate Secretary of War to ever hold the office but came to the post too late to alter the outcome of the war.

The final section deals with the historical memory of the Confederacy. Davis’s examination of the legend of Stonewall Jackson is informative and serves to christen James I. Roberson’s recent biography. The essay on myths and realities of the Confederate experience is disappointing, as it merely echoes arguments made much earlier by Gaines Foster, Charles Reagan Wilson, Thomas L. Connelly, and others. The final contribution on the Confederacy in film is informative, interpretive, and will be the starting point for

much needed further study on this interdisciplinary topic. This essay is easily the volume's most important contribution.

Davis's book is highly readable, and some of his interpretations are provocative. Unfortunately, due to the fact that these essays were written over such a long period of time, Davis's work does not make use of the expanding literature on topics such as Confederate nationalism, the motivation of common soldiers, and life on the Confederate homefront. This collection does bring attention to some neglected aspects of the Confederate experience but more often simply echoes ideas available in Davis's earlier works. A reader searching for the current trends in Confederate historiography is advised to look elsewhere.

*Western Carolina University*

RICHARD D. STARNES

*Raphael Semmes: The Philosophical Mariner.* By Warren F. Spencer. (Tuscaloosa and London: The University of Alabama Press, 1997. x, 250 pp. List of illustrations, preface, introduction, notes, bibliographical essay, bibliography, index. \$37.95 cloth.)

Raphael Semmes will be forever linked to the CSS *Alabama* as the most successful commerce raider in maritime history. Indeed, historians often present the two as inseparable. This latest installment is among the growing number of histories to appear in recent years concerning Semmes and the *Alabama*. The ship's sea adventures are well documented, but what do we know about its remarkable commander? Warren F. Spencer provides a closer examination of Semmes' life and colorful career as revealed through previously overlooked manuscripts. Unlike earlier biographers, he examines more thoroughly Semmes' personality, his intellect, and his compassion for his family.

Spencer introduces the reader to Semmes' genealogy and some maritime influences in young Raphael's life. Semmes' thirty-nine-year naval career began in 1826 as a midshipman. His on-the-job training as an officer candidate was earned aboard a warship before the establishment of a U.S. naval academy. In peacetime, advancement was slow and most assignments were uninteresting. Despite the routine and often menial nature of his duties, the young officer enriched his off-duty hours by studying naval regulations, natural science, history, mathematics, astronomy, tides and

currents, navigation and artillery. What he lacked in formal education he gained from a natural affinity toward learning and through extensive reading. Spencer explains that Semmes fundamentally considered himself to be a “philosophical mariner,” that is, a seaman who studied and understood the science of the seas. The writings of Matthew Fontaine Maury, U.S. naval officer and oceanographer, greatly influenced Semmes’ thinking. Maury’s published studies of the world’s ocean currents and navigation were landmark contributions to the improvement of international commerce. During the Civil War, Semmes relied upon Maury’s charts of these ocean currents which provided natural highways for his pursuit of U.S. merchant vessels.

To supplement an inconsistent navy income, Semmes studied law and was admitted to the Maryland bar in 1835. His meticulous nature was reinforced by a desire to study maritime and constitutional law. During long periods of forced unpaid leave, he supported his growing family from income generated by his law practice. He was nicknamed the “Sea-lawyer.” Later, his thorough understanding of international law enabled him to successfully argue the belligerent rights of the Confederacy in neutral ports.

An acute observer, Semmes often recorded extensive notes of his surroundings and experiences. According to Spencer, these notes reflect his varied interests in nature, social customs, architecture, history politics and religion. The young naval officer was not a “scientific” historian. He did not derive his descriptions from scientific research. He simply “sketched persons and things” as he saw them. Such personal observations, however, serve as a wonderful tool for the historian. Semmes assembled his notes as the basis for a more detailed journal. Spencer cites, for the first time in any Semmes biography, the unpublished journal composed by Semmes while aboard the USS *Porpoise*, just prior to the Mexican War. As the warship cruised the Caribbean Sea, frequent visits to the islands provided many opportunities for expression. Approaching Cuba he wrote, “Havana, lay in hazy indistinctiveness . . . all robed in the azure tints of distance . . . the sea lay in placid beauty, spread out like a sheet of molten silver.” He also commented on Cuba’s strategic importance as a naval base for control of the entrances into the Gulf of Mexico. Semmes revealed his nationalistic support of Manifest Destiny by suggesting the United States should purchase the island from Spain to obtain control of the region.

Like most officers of his generation, Semmes' first real combat experience was obtained during the Mexican War. But without an opposing fleet to fight, there was little for the U.S. Navy to do except endure the boredom of blockading Mexican ports. Semmes' atypical military encounters occurred on both land and sea and included the tragic loss of the brig USS *Somers*, Semmes' first wartime command, when the vessel capsized during a squall. He also participated in the first amphibious operation by U.S. forces and as a naval volunteer attached to Winfield Scott's army during the final assault and capture of Mexico City. In 1851, Semmes published his Mexican War journal, *Service Afloat and Ashore During the Mexican War*, which earned financial success as a bestseller in 1852. Modern historians frequently cite this work as an accurate primary source.

In addition to being the most popular and successful Confederate naval officer during the Civil War, Raphael Semmes' complex nature is a challenge to biographers. Warren F. Spencer has produced an excellent study of the blue water commander's life in order that the reader may "get as close as possible to an understanding of the man's mind and spirit." He accomplishes this not only through his own intuitive skills but also through the liberal use of Semmes' own words. Spencer provides detailed insight into Semmes' formative pre-Civil War life and career. Consequently, he does not overemphasize every encounter on the high seas. Nor does the author challenge any controversies.

The presentation of some contemporary opposing viewpoints to Semmes' success would have been interesting. James D. Bulloch, Confederate naval agent in Europe, was not particularly impressed by Semmes when he wrote, "I have not felt at all impelled . . . to eulogize him. His defeat did not change the estimate I had formed of his capacity. . . . As a mere sea-officer under the ordinary requirements of the naval profession, he was not especially distinguished." The ever poignant Mary Boykin Chesnut also remarked in her diary just after Semmes' fateful battle with the USS *Kearsarge*, "Admiral Semmes, of whom we have been so proud, is a fool after all. He risked the *Alabama* in a sort of duel of ships. . . . Forgive who may, I cannot!"

Spencer, however, remains true to his purpose to produce a balanced biography explaining more of Semmes' humanity rather than just recounting high-seas adventures of the hard-bitten Confederate "pirate."

*Memoirs of Service Afloat During the War Between the States.* By Admiral Raphael Semmes, CSN, Captain of the CSS Alabama. With a New Introduction and Notes by John M. Taylor. (1868; reprint, Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1996. xv, 888 pp. Half-tones, drawings, map, preface, introduction, notes, index. \$19.95 paper.)

Civil War historians often neglect the important naval aspects of America's most tragic conflict. Ironclads, blockade-runners and commerce raiding cruisers were employed in a combined Southern strategy to break the Union naval blockade. One of the principle methods by which the Confederacy hoped to gain its independence was through the destruction of the North's merchant shipping. British-built Confederate cruisers were commissioned to inflict a heavy blow upon the merchant fleet and to terrorize the northeastern seaboard. Confederate strategists hoped these attacks would divert ships from the Federal blockade and loosen the naval grip upon Southern ports.

Unquestionably, Raphael Semmes is the best known of the Confederate naval officers and considered "the most successful practitioner of the naval strategy of commerce raiding." In command of two vessels over three years, he captured eighty-two prizes. Although lionized in the South as a hero, Semmes' wanton destruction of unarmed merchant ships was considered piracy by the United States. Perhaps feeling compelled to defend himself against this charge and in response to other unauthorized histories of his exploits, Semmes wrote a personal account of his high seas adventures. Originally published in 1868, *Memoirs of Service Afloat* emerged as the first postwar memoir of a former high-ranking Confederate. This epic narrative recounts the author's voyages as commander of the CSS *Sumter* and CSS *Alabama* as well as his political, social and scientific opinions about the war and nature. Instead of writing an apology, Semmes defends the right of secession and blames the causes for the war upon political and economic aggression initiated by a Northern faction "arrayed in a solid phalanx of hostility to the South." Semmes' bitterness toward "Yankees" is liberally expressed throughout the text. Although he claimed to have written without malice, he defended the book's tone as "occasionally plain-spoken . . . which calls a rogue a rogue, notwithstanding his disguises."

Yet, despite his unreconstructed viewpoint, the historical facts seem accurately presented by the blue-water commander. John M.

Taylor has ably edited Semmes' work, providing explanation and insight into this complex naval officer. *Memoirs of Service Afloat* serves as the logical sequel to Taylor's superb biography of Semmes published in 1994. According to Taylor, pride and arrogance were Semmes' strongest character traits. His pride enabled him to resign his commission in order to join the Confederacy, but his arrogance resulted in the disastrous combat with the USS *Kearsarge*. The *Alabama* was ordered to destroy enemy commerce and to avoid engagements with warships. Semmes instead took advantage of two opportunities to fight. The first was a Confederate victory over the USS *Hatteras*, but the second ended with the *Alabama's* destruction. Why did Semmes risk his vessel? His memoirs do not explain his decision. Pride and arrogance perhaps? Several of *Alabama's* officers professed to Semmes' intention to fight in order "to show the world what they were made of." Taylor does make an unfortunate factual error when he credits the *Alabama's* victory over the *Hatteras* as "the only occasion in the war when a Confederate ship defeated a Federal vessel in single combat." Captain Franklin Buchanan and the CSS *Virginia* destroyed two Union warships in Hampton Roads, Virginia, on March 8, 1862.

To its credit, this reprint edition is offset from the original and greatly enhanced with valuable endnotes and a long awaited index. Despite any advantage implied by maintaining the historical integrity of the original, the awkward placement of notes at the back of the book without key numbers in the text inconveniences the reader's use and appreciation of Taylor's commentaries. Hopefully this will be improved in future editions. Seven gray halftone illustrations are often murky and provide little graphic enhancement to the text.

*Library of Virginia*

R. THOMAS CREW JR.

*Redeeming the South: Religious Cultures and Racial Identities Among Southern Baptists, 1865-1925.* By Paul Harvey. (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1997. x, 330 pp. Acknowledgments, introduction, notes, index. \$49.95 cloth, \$17.95 paper.)

No issue is more central to southern studies than the complex relationship of black and white influences that created southern culture. In regional music, folklore, crafts, and cuisine, what is of African origin and what of European? When did the mixing begin, and how did it change both cultures? Whether in George Pullen

Jackson's classic work on white spirituals of the southern uplands or in Dori Sanders' novel about a white woman trying to raise a black adolescent in South Carolina without knowing how to cook grits, the mix of races is a central theme of southern writers in both fiction and nonfiction.

Paul Harvey has significantly enlarged our knowledge of southern religion by integrating the history of black and white Baptists between 1865 and 1925. Many historians have written perceptively about black Christianity. Others have done equally well by white Christianity. But in every case where they have attempted to merge the two streams, the water downstream has become murky and stained. Clarity in the understanding of one religious tradition often led to stereotypes in perceiving the other. By weaving black and white Baptists together in a series of alternating chapters, Harvey provides the most complete comparative history of racial religion. In this story, white religion is not normative and black religion an aberrant strain. Both are the logical outgrowth of a religious vision shaped by separate and conflicting historical realities.

Harvey provides additional evidence that southern evangelicalism often operates as a counterculture rather than as a culture. Black Baptists often functioned as an alternative and conflicted minority. But even within the white church, alternative visions often flourished, as between Populistic and elite white Baptists:

In fact, Harvey devotes much of his book to the contradictions within southern evangelicalism. Black Baptists included "Uncle Tom" accommodationists and fiercely independent Afrocentrists. Among white Baptists, some of the more theologically enlightened leaders were also the most racist. Although black Baptists often solicited aid from their reluctant, paternalistic white companions, they always understood that they could never stray beyond the wishes of their black congregants. Nor was much aid forthcoming, despite the pious assurances from white Baptists that they were the black Baptists' best friends.

In many ways the two Baptist groups moved through history along parallel but separate routes. Both contained progressive factions that sought formal education, proper theological credentials, urban pastorates, and acceptance from New South elites. Both spawned vigorous prohibitionist movements that led to more sweeping reforms. Rural, bivocational, uneducated Baptists of both races often resisted such modernization and sustained viable religious communities in the South's hinterland. Class conflicts oc-



curred in both. Both were spectacularly successful by their own measurements: by 1906 some sixty percent of black churchgoers in the United States were Baptists. And whites carved out an empire in the South nearly as extensive.

By taking black and white Baptists equally seriously and rejecting stereotypes of both, Harvey has contributed to our better understanding. Although historians of both groups will learn little that is new or earth-shattering, it is the comparative nature of this story that well serves the reader. Specialists will protest the absence of a bibliography which reduces the scholarly usefulness of the book, but that presumably is the fault of the press and not the author.

*Auburn University*

WAYNE FLYNT

*A Cautious Patriotism: The American Churches and the Second World War.* By Gerald L. Sittser. (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1997. x, 317 pp. Acknowledgments, notes, bibliography, index. \$39.95 cloth.)

In his acclaimed work *A World at Arms: A Global History of World War II* (1994), Gerhard Weinberg noticed that on the eve of America's entry into war, President Franklin Roosevelt became "especially concerned" (243) about the religious situation in the United States and the ramifications of domestic religious opinion as it related to the impending national crisis. What Weinberg has globalized and treated as the particular connected to the general, Gerald L. Sittser has broadened and analyzed in an eminently readable fashion. By offering the religious perspective, Sittser breaks new ground in discussing World War II, the only one of America's wars that has not been treated from the religious angle. Sittser has made a significant contribution not only to American religious history but to American social history in general.

Taken plainly, Sittser argues that while the American churches—Protestant, Catholic and Jewish—were patriotic during World War II, they were only cautiously so. While FDR and the State Department urged the churches to hop to attention under the colors, America's religious congregations fell into ranks only after considerable introspection, circumspection, and deep soul-searching. The reason for this clerical caution, Sittser maintains, was the theological problem of "theodicy," that is to say, the reconciliation of "the goodness of God with the badness of war" (77).

Theodicy, a concept which has confounded thinkers from the Neo-Platonists to Nietzsche, asked American church leaders and their flocks to, in some way, justify an American "theology of war." Would World War II be a "holy war" or merely another manifestation of the immanence of evil in a fallen world? The American churches, deeply influenced by theological pacifism as well as political isolationism, refused to declare a "crusade" against Germany and Japan but rallied instead to the openhanded notion of "American democracy" as being the best hope and model for the survival of world Christianity. If this attenuated brand of patriotism was not exactly what FDR had hoped for, at least it was a way of reconciling the gun belt strapped around the combat GI's waist with the religious medallion which clinked against his dog tags.

For Sittser, the problem of theodicy was amplified and expressed most poignantly in the American church by neo-orthodox Protestant theologian and social critic Reinhold Niebuhr. Niebuhr looms large in Sittser's analysis because the apex of his lifelong theological investigation of the notion of sin coincided perfectly with the outbreak of World War II. Niebuhr's so-called "doctrine of the depravity of man," expressed in his *Gifford Lectures* of 1941-1943, acknowledged that evil did exist in the world, and, fortunately for the planners at Foggy Bottom, a tyrant such as Hitler could be cast as just that. While far from hawkish, Niebuhr's theology acknowledging the "sinful corruption" of mankind served to subdue the sometimes utopian peace claims of certain experiential theologians who protested military involvement. With Niebuhr stating that war was a product of mankind's weakness before God, a guilt-free America could stop philosophizing and get on with the business of winning the war.

Sittser's book is engaging primarily because his exposition of religious and theological concepts is done clearly and precisely. While it is evident that Sittser knows his theology well, he humbly refrains from interjecting esoteric theological conversation into the text. His aim is to explain the influences of various theological strains at the functional level. Writing from this perspective, Sittser uses the candelabrum of American religion to illuminate such diverse secular niches as the propaganda war, Japanese internment, the Holocaust, and civil rights.

Sittser's discussion of how the war revolutionized, or rather ex-coriated, the church-related college should prove of interest to many professors of history. On the regional level, Florida historians

may wish to examine the vigorous anti-Nazi national radio campaign of Florida's Catholic bishop, Joseph P. Hurley, as a prophetic voice crying out amidst the tempered caution of America's religious leaders. Hurley's State Department-sponsored speeches at Gainesville in June of 1941 and Washington, D.C., in July of 1941 offer an interesting yet isolated contrast to Sittser's thesis.

*Diocese of Saint Augustine*

CHARLES R. GALLAGHER

*Daybreak of Freedom: The Montgomery Bus Boycott.* Edited by Stewart Burns. (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1997. xix, 359 pp. Preface, acknowledgments, overview, chronology, editorial practices, abbreviations for collections and archives, selected bibliography, index. \$45.00 cloth, \$17.95 paper.)

*Daybreak of Freedom* is a valuable resource for scholars interested in the Montgomery Bus Boycott as a signal moment in the modern civil rights movement. Editor Stewart Burns has done an admirable job bringing together a host of diverse research materials on the boycott. Burns was able to gather the documents during his five years spent co-editing the third volume of the Martin Luther King Jr. Papers at Stanford University; he carefully arranged and edited the materials over two additional years.

The product is a rich documentary history of a crucial episode during the civil rights movement and the coming of age and leadership of Martin Luther King Jr. The reader is given the opportunity, through over a hundred original documents, to view the boycott through the eyes of key figures such as King, E. D. Nixon, Fred Gray, Ralph D. Abernathy, Rosa Parks, Clifford and Virginia Durr, Bayard Rustin, Lillian Smith, and others, as well as besieged city officials, defensive white supremacists and their leaders, such as Sam Englehardt, and the cooks, domestics, bus drivers, and more ordinary participants in the boycott itself.

This reviewer's primary complaint with this book is one that could be lodged just as easily against much of the civil rights literature that has been produced in the recent past. While the best examples of literature on the movement have been quite strong in terms of research, documentation, analysis, organization, and most of the conventional measures of quality historical scholarship, civil

rights history is still written in a manner unlike virtually any other kind of history today. Much of its tone is so celebratory that it fails to ask, let alone answer, hard questions that eventually will have to be posed by historians of any subject. It is not so much the fact that civil rights historiography (the present volume included) is wrongly celebratory. On the contrary, the movement's accomplishments—moving America closer to her democratic ideals; providing an example for other countries and other freedom movements to follow; increasing both the quality and quantity of democracy, freedom, and equality for citizens of both colors in America—are all worthy topics of honor and praise. But at some point, more of the historical writing on the subject will have to move past kudos. This is a predicament, especially, for the history of movements (organized labor and women's rights, for example) that harbor an innately ennobling quality and a clearly beneficial cumulative effect on society as a whole.

Currently, much attention is being given to the most politically correct aspects of the civil rights movement: the participation of women and ordinary people. Burns writes that the working-class women “foot-soldiers” of the bus boycott were its “driving force” (xii), yet demonstrates elsewhere that the young Martin Luther King Jr. is more deserving of this laurel. Which is it? While attention to traditionally under-appreciated minorities within social movements has produced some of the best scholarship currently available on the civil rights movement, we have not seen a corresponding proclivity to ask hard questions about the self-interest and pragmatism of the movement's leadership and participants. No doubt the *product* of the movement, as so ably demonstrated by Stewart Burns in this book, generally ennobled mankind. But was it the *intent* of its participants to accomplish something that grand or only to better their own lives, circumstances, and particular conditions? Historians must explore more deeply to what degree the actions of the civil rights movement's leadership and rank-and-file (in fact, the leadership and rank-and-file of any social, economic, or political movement) acted out of self-interest and pragmatism as well as a concern for the betterment of mankind.

*Black Women in the Academy: Promises and Perils.* Edited by Lois Benjamin. (University of Florida Press, 1997, xxi, 360 pp. Preface, introduction, contributors, index. \$49.95 cloth.)

This anthology is a frank, critical, and uncompromising examination of black women in higher education. With precision and clarity, contributors chronicle the remarkable achievements black women have made since entering the profession more than a century ago. They also document issues that confront black women in the academy, with tenure and promotion dominating the list of concerns. The thirty chapters are divided into seven thematic parts, each introduced by editor Lois Benjamin.

Part I examines the academic climate in which black women faculty and administrators work. Nellie McKay (who published a short working paper on the subject in 1982) here argues that despite their increased presence in predominantly white institutions, these women occupy "contested space." McKay finds little hope that the academic community will find solutions to the problems of race, class, and gender (15-17). Focusing on "Issues and Strategies," college president Yolanda T. Moses examines how race and gender affect the academic climate on both predominantly black and white campuses.

In Part II, authors challenge those who would exclude the academic contributions of black women (and men). Shelby Lewis explores alternatives to the "hegemonic paradigms" that "support and protect the interests and concerns of rich white males, except on questions of gender, where white females constitute the dominant class" (41-42).

Part III contains research findings, pedagogical strategies, and personal essays from faculty and administrators in biology, music, African-American studies, English, philosophy and religious studies. In her introduction Benjamin maintains that "the Euro-male-centered knowledge base, which generates and disseminates information, discounts and devalues black women's pedagogical styles and strategies and their research paradigms" (65). Anyone looking for new ways to integrate literature and life would appreciate Beverly Guy-Sheftall's description of her approach to teaching an Introduction to Women's Studies course at Spelman College. Her requirement that students work or volunteer at "a site where gender, race, and class issues" are played out (118) not only informs the students' readings but enriches their life experiences.

Six chapters dealing with black women administrators make up Part IV. Elnora D. Daniel's well-written article on the emergence of the nursing profession also provides strategies to "facilitate breaking the glass ceiling in academe" (176). Julia R. Miller and Gladys Gary Vaughn use their own "informal national study of forty professionals in higher education, business, law and medicine," to create a model for analyzing the working environment of African-American female executives (184). M. Colleen Jones's examination of the leadership styles of successful black women college presidents is fascinating reading.

The five chapters of Part V focus on a variety of issues. Jacqueline Pope and Janice Joseph bring to the forefront a seldom-addressed aspect of sexual harassment in their chapter on student harassment of female faculty of African descent. Vernellia R. Randall and Vincene Verdun's chapter on the processes of promotion, retention, and tenure takes the form of a stylized dialogue between the two. Their discussion, centered on Randall's promotion review, presents a personal view of a process that can be intimidating, humiliating, and demoralizing.

Part VI offers a collection of personal experiences. Delo Washington details her ongoing career journey in the California State University System, while Josie R. Johnson describes the complex and sometimes contradictory dilemmas she faces as a senior-level administrator in a major university. In Monica Philips's chapter, three female faculty at Spelman "share their understanding of their own work experiences within the tradition of teaching for survival and change" (303). An interesting note is Philips's finding that "most of the women who were interviewed spoke of that special energy in the classroom that can exist because no one, student or professor, has to justify her presence on campus." Many of the concerns voiced in Philips's chapter are found throughout the book, namely, the attempt to balance teaching and the demands of research and professional development (313-14). In her chapter subtitled "Gender and Racial Crimes of Commission and Omission in Academia," Saliwe M. Kawewe looks at problems of affirmative action, tenure, and retention.

In Part VII, Darlene Clark Hine and Mamie E. Locke offer personal reflections on their careers and assess the challenges and opportunities open to black female academicians. Hine reflects on the pioneering work of black women historians who "argued that simply to add black women and stir was an unacceptable and inad-

equate response and that all of American history must be rewritten and reinterpreted from multiple perspectives" (333-34). Despite persistent problems and ongoing challenges that confront black women in the academy, Hine believes that their future "is full of promise and exciting possibilities" (339).

These contributors offer valuable insights on research, teaching, service, tenure, promotion, service, retention, and many other critical issues facing black women. Besides addressing the many barriers that black women encounter daily on both predominantly black and white campuses, this book documents their many contributions. However, even though the chapter titles suggest otherwise, many contributors examine the same issues, and reading can become tedious.

*Black Women in the Academy* is a book of reflection, reevaluation, celebration, and determination, and the contributors represent those "black women professors who have effectively demonstrated the possibilities of achieving respect, recognition, and reward for their work" (337). Their unique perspectives will influence current and future research on a subject of great importance.

Florida A & M University

MARY B. DIALLO

*Southern Parties and Elections: Studies in Regional Political Change*. Edited by Robert P. Steed, Laurence W. Moreland, and Tod A. Baker. (Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 1997. xiii, 234 pp. Figures, tables, acknowledgments, introduction, notes, select bibliography, contributors, index. \$34.95 cloth.)

The last quarter century has witnessed a transformation in southern politics. After almost a century of single-party Democratic dominance, the Republican party is now competitive at all political levels in the southern states and has become predominant in presidential and congressional elections. In no state is this more apparent than Florida, which currently has a Republican majority in its congressional delegation as well as in both houses of the state legislature.

The new two-party politics in the South is the subject of this edited volume spawned by the biannual *Citadel Symposium on Southern Politics*. Each one of the ten chapters, authored by noted scholars of southern politics, is concerned with an aspect of the southern electoral realignment. Together they convincingly demonstrate that

two-party competition has arrived in the South, although there is no consensus on future partisan developments. In their concluding summary, the editors reiterate that the old Solid Democratic South is gone for good, but despite spectacular electoral advances they do not envisage that the Republicans will establish anything resembling that degree of dominance.

The opening essay (also the strongest in the collection) by Richard Scher, Jon Mills, and John Hotaling provides an excellent analysis of the historical/legal background to recent controversies over the creation of "majority-minority" districts in the southern states. On the same subject, the following chapter by Keith Gaddie and Charles Bullock notes that the creation of overwhelmingly black districts in the South following the 1990 census did *not* succeed in increasing black voter turnout. Another of the stronger chapters, by Thomas Eamon, convincingly challenges the arguments of Earl and Merle Black in *The Vital South* (1992), that the South would remain the pivotal region in presidential politics and argues instead that the non-southern megastates (and especially California) have become more decisive.

Four chapters deal with various aspects of the rise of the southern Republicans. Jay Barth argues that the slow pace of Republican advance below the presidential level has been partly due to the "decoupling" of southern state elections from presidential election years. David Sturrock examines Republican primary turnout, and discovers that despite the common association of Republican growth with middle-class status in the South, population growth is, in fact, the best predictor of rising Republican primary turnout. Clifton McCleskey's chapter examines the "inexorable" (164) rise in the Republican ranks in the Virginia General Assembly, although he does not envisage the Republicans establishing a "permanent governing majority" (164) in the Old Dominion. Finally, R. Bruce Anderson notes the rise in electoral competition and contested seats in southern state legislative elections generally, although the mere fact of contesting elections has not necessarily benefitted the Republicans in terms of winning seats.

By contrast the Democratic party gets relatively little attention, except for Layne Hoppe's chapter on the increasing liberalism of southern Democratic members of Congress, which is attributed to the southern Democratic committee chairs feeling pressure from liberal political action committees and the party leadership. While this may have been a factor, it appears more likely that the chang-



ing nature of the national Democratic coalition and the need to appeal to the Democrats' new southern electoral base of African American voters have been more important.

Overall this is a fine collection of essays which illuminates many aspects of electoral and partisan realignment in the South. The volume concentrates rather narrowly on partisan change rather than the broader historical and socioeconomic context in which that change has taken place and as such will be of greater interest to political scientists than historians. The changing role of the South in national political institutions— particularly the region's expanded influence in the congressional Republican party and Republican presidential politics— receives little attention, as does the impact of the current southern Democratic president on his party's prospects in his native region. Nevertheless as far as the overall story of partisan change in the South is concerned, observers of southern party politics and elections will find much to interest them in this worthy collection.

*Florida International University*

NICOL C. RAE

## BOOK NOTES

### *New Titles*

The unraveling of a myth is a difficult business, especially if the subject of the myth also happens to be the mythmaker. It has been said of Ernest Hemingway that the author spent much of his life cultivating his own legend— an allegation seemingly borne out by his famous quote, “After all there is the career, the career.” How then does a sincere biographer go about separating fact from fiction? In recounting the life of Odet Philippe— a Frenchman thought to be the first European to settle in the Pinellas Peninsula— J. Allison DeFoor faced a difficult task requiring a substantial amount of historical “detective work.” The resulting volume, *Odet Philippe: Peninsular Pioneer* (1997) is a small biographical gem. Working closely with the Safety Harbor Museum of Regional History, DeFoor— a lawyer by profession— has produced a soundly documented, highly accessible work. *Odet Philippe: Peninsular Pioneer* is available in hardback from The Safety Harbor Museum of Regional History for \$19.21 plus tax and \$3.00 S&H.

In the book jacket photo for *Louisiana Journey*, photographer Neil Johnson looks every bit the wearied soldier— pensive, slouched, and gear-laden— the expression on his face suggests that he has marched over every inch of the state and if his brilliant lenswork is any indication— he has. True to its title, Johnson’s book takes readers on a journey throughout all of Louisiana not simply its more recognized hot spots. Avoiding the sort of “tourist brochure” photographs which often render such books artificial, *Louisiana Journey* does a splendid job of capturing scenes from everyday life. In fact, some of the book’s most striking photographs are also its most “ordinary.” These include: a decaying Victorian home, a woman skinning a still-grinning alligator, and a green-decked freighter floating down the Mississippi like a pool table adrift. *Louisiana Journey* (1997) is available in hardback from Louisiana State University Press for \$39.95.

The last time a genuine snowfall touched the ground in Florida was on January 19, 1977. The day was likely a memorable one for most state residents, but for Florida’s citrus growers it was an

ominous harbinger of the decade to come. The brutal citrus freezes of the 1980's would result in a swath of skeletal groves and industry-wide losses estimated at a staggering 1.5 billion dollars. John Attaway's *A History of Florida Citrus Freezes*, examines the impact of freezes on one of the state's oldest industries and chronicles their effect on the ever-resilient men and women who, for more than a century, have derived their livelihood from Florida's groves. Attaway, a citrus grower with a doctorate in chemistry, does a fine job combining the book's numerical tables with a well-ordered narrative that includes many personal observations from Florida growers both past and present. Thoroughly researched with a wealth of heretofore unpublished material, Attaway's book will no doubt serve scholars and growers for many years to come. *A History of Florida Citrus Freezes* (1997) is available in hardcover from Florida Science Sources, Inc. for \$48.00.

*Roadside History of Florida*, by Douglas Waitley, is a book for visitors who wish to see the architectural gems of by-gone days of some of Florida's cities and to learn more of the personal histories of those who lay behind the construction of the structures. The first section of the book deals with Orlando, Miami, Tampa and St. Petersburg, Jacksonville, and Tallahassee, particularly those parts that formed the core of the present communities. This is also a book for residents who wish to know a little more of Florida's history by travelling the highways and byways of the state. The roads referenced include the turnpike, I-75, U.S. 41, I-95, U.S. 1, I-4, U.S. 98, and I-10. Available from Mountain Press of Missoula, Montana, for \$18.00, *Roadside History of Florida* can serve as the basis for city stays and weekend excursions. Its value is enhanced by many pictures.

While most competent United States history textbooks justly highlight the importance of the 1857 *Dred Scott v. Sanford* Supreme Court case, too often the case is described in a manner suggesting that the logic behind the court's decision was unprecedented. In Mark Brandon's *Free in the World: American Slavery and Constitutional Failure* (1998), the author, paraphrasing a speech by the noted abolitionist Wendell Phillips, writes "Dred Scott came out of the past; its foundations were laid far back." (109) Brandon's book points out that the United States Constitution— a document so often hailed for its revolutionary egalitarianism— failed a significant percentage of the nation's population (African Americans) both be-

fore and after Emancipation. In the earlier instance, it denied all blacks (free and slave) access to the political process. In the later instance, the Constitution's inability to mediate between northern and southern cultures resulted in its reversion to a tool of division (separating blacks from whites). *Free in the World* scrutinizes the work of the Founding Fathers in a lucid and thought-provoking manner and causes readers to consider how the nation's history might have evolved under an alternately worded Constitution. *Free in the World: American Slavery and Constitutional Failure* is available in cloth from Princeton University Press for \$39.50.

Benjamin Disraeli, England's oft-quoted-nineteenth century Prime Minister, once wrote "Read no history: nothing but biography, for that is life without theory." Considering the penchant most statesmen have for commissioning vainglorious personal biographies, Disraeli's words seem especially self-serving. Very often, however, the recollections of political leaders serve as invaluable material for historians seeking to establish a sense of "place." *The Reminiscences of George Strother Gaines: Pioneer and Statesman of Early Alabama and Mississippi, 1805-1843* (1998) provides scholars and lay readers alike with a genuine historical backdrop of early nineteenth-century Alabama. Gaines, who served in various governmental posts from 1805 to 1843, was deeply involved in the state's dealings with its Native American population and as superintendent for the Choctaw removal he oversaw one of the most infamous events in Alabama's history. *The Reminiscences of George Strother Gaines* is available in paperback from University of Alabama Press for \$19.95.

On rare occasions a photograph collection can transcend its two-dimensional boundaries and virtually recreate its subjects around a viewer. *Memories of Cuba* (1998) is just such a collection. Photographer Olivier Beytout and journalist Francois Missen have created a magical work capable of transporting even the most casual bookstore browser to a sun-streaked Havana street corner. In photograph after photograph, faces— the book's principal subject— await the opportunity to share a secret, a laugh, or a simple hello. The book's text— composed of interviews with lifelong island residents— reads like a series of treasured letters. Like any time spent reminiscing it is easy to lose track of the minutes while leafing through the book, but the richness of the experience is certain

to result in— if nothing else— a productive flight of fancy. *Memories of Cuba* is available in paperback from Thunder's Mouth Press for \$22.95.

### *Second Editions*

Long considered one of America's most culturally diverse cities— combining French, Spanish, and African influences— New Orleans has also fashioned a reputation as one of the nation's more enigmatic metropolises. When the late Joy Jackson's *New Orleans in the Gilded Age* was first published in 1969 it provided readers with a revealing portrait of the late-nineteenth century Crescent City (so named for its location on a concave Mississippi River bend). Recently, the Louisiana Historical Association issued a second edition (1997) of Jackson's seminal book. *New Orleans in the Gilded Age* is a sprawling work which nonetheless moves effortlessly from politics to public health and from crime to the mythology of Mardi Gras. The byzantine complexity (and corruption) of nineteenth-century New Orleans politics is legendary, and Jackson does a superb job of diagramming the various machinations of the city's "bosses and businessmen." The second edition features a new chapter entitled "Black Society in Transition" as well as an epilogue and updated bibliography. *New Orleans in the Gilded Age* (1997) is available in hardcover from the Louisiana Historical Association.

During the Revolutionary War, American and Loyalist supporters often found themselves evenly divided in cities and towns throughout the colonies. Conversely, during the Civil War, a clear geographical line separated Union and Confederate interests. The Appalachian region, however, was a notable exception. First published in 1978, Gordon B. McKinney's *Southern Mountain Republicans, 1865-1900: Politics and the Appalachian Community* revealed that not only did a majority of Appalachian communities resist secession but that after the war they defied the concept of a "solid" Democratic South and consistently voted Republican. McKinney's book - reissued this year as part of the "Appalachian Echoes" series - reasons that Appalachia's alternative politics were a result of the upheavals caused by the Civil War and the absence of an African American presence in the region. Party leaders exploited these circumstances and used them to create a Republi-

can political machine unique to the South. *Southern Mountain Republicans, 1865-1900: Politics and the Appalachian Community* (1998) is available in paperback from The University of Tennessee Press for \$19.00.

*New in Paperback*

Brenda E. Stevenson's *Life in Black and White: Family and Community in the Slave South* is at once an insightful examination of antebellum southern race relations and a scrupulously researched regional history. The residents of Loudoun County, Virginia, were a colorful combination of plantation aristocrats, small farmers, abolitionist Quakers, and black families both slave and free. Largely because of its diverse population the county was viewed as a sort of barometer of regional sentiment. As a result, local opinions on the subject of slavery were disseminated throughout the South. In her introduction, Stevenson writes: "In a slave society. . . one's race virtually defined one's status as slave or free, family and community differed profoundly for black and white people." (x) Building upon the concept of alternative slave family structures, Stevenson makes the provocative argument that extended kin networks— developed by slaves in the face of an inhuman system which reduced nuclear families to saleable "parts"— emerged as the principal unit of the black family. *Life in Black and White* is available in paperback from Oxford University Press for \$16.95.

Augustine St. Clare, the model southern gentleman/slave owner of Harriet Beecher Stowe's monumentally influential novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, was long thought to exemplify the antebellum southern aristocrat. Well educated, affluent, and always patient with his servants, St. Clare represented the slave owner with deep misgivings about slavery. However, as James Oakes's *The Ruling Race: A History of American Slaveholders* points out, most slave owners never questioned the system responsible for their livelihood. Originally published in 1982, Oakes's book underscored the fact that the majority of southern slave holders owned five slaves or fewer. These individuals did not live in opulent mansions or own grandiose "Tara-like" plantations. In fact, perhaps the most shocking revelation about southern slave owners is that most of them were middle-class entrepreneurs. *The Ruling Race: A History of American Slaveholders* is available in paperback from W.W. Norton & Company, Inc. for \$14.95.