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Book Reviews

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Book Reviews

Faces on the Frontier: Florida Surveyors and Developers in the 19th Century. By Joe Knetsch. (Cocoa, FL: The Florida Historical Society Press, 2006. Preface, introduction, illustrations, maps, notes, index. Pp. xiii, 214. \$23.95, paper.)

The process by which federal land was surveyed and sold constituted the most pressing concern to the vast majority of early settlers on the American frontier in the nineteenth century. No other issue came close—not politics, not religion—not even war and peace. While some historians have recognized the importance of the issue, it is remarkable that relatively few historians have written on the subject. Malcolm J. Rohrbough, Paul Gates, and others have contributed much to our understanding of surveying and selling of public lands in American history. But no one has studied the subject in Florida more thoroughly or comprehensively than Joe Knetsch, historian for the Division of State Lands, Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Much of his painstaking research in Florida's public land records is brought together in this readable and engaging book.

According to Knetsch, Florida's "numerous swamps, rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, bayous . . . all were expensive to survey. But the settlers wanted the land, the government needed the money and Florida got surveyed in spite of itself" (1). Florida's diverse and difficult terrain, its oppressive climate, its hostile Indians, recalcitrant squatters—all made the surveyor's job extremely difficult, if not physically dangerous. Particularly vexing for surveyors were Spanish land grants such as the Forbes Purchase and the Arredondo Grant that continued unsettled long into the territorial period.

Faces on the Frontier is a history of surveying public lands in Florida as experienced through surveyors general, surveyors, and

developers. Knetsch puts a human face on the subject by using biographical sketches on practitioners of the surveyors' craft. Few of Knetsch's subjects are known today, but he argues persuasively for their importance for a fuller understanding of the state's past. Essays on surveyors general Robert Butler, Benjamin Putnam, John Westcott, and Francis Littleberry Dancy make up the first part of the book; surveyors Sam Reid, John Jackson, D. A. Spaulding, Marcellus Stearns, Benjamin Clements, R. W. B. Hodgson, and Charles H. Goldsborough make up the second part. A final section on developers Sam Hope, Albert Gilchrist, and Hamilton Disston round out the book. While most of these essays have been previously published as essays in *Florida Surveyor*, *Sunland Tribune*, *El Escribano*, and other periodicals, they work well as an interesting introduction to the process by which the Florida Peninsula was surveyed and developed in the nineteenth century.

Knetsch reminds his readers of the close connection of state and national politics to the appointment and work of the surveyors. Surveyors held federal appointment, and thus political connections as well as surveying skills were necessary attributes to obtaining the position. Florida's first Surveyor General Robert Butler owed his appointment to his close personal relationship to Andrew Jackson. So did Benjamin Clements. Nearly all of Florida's early surveyors had military backgrounds. Some like John Westcott, Francis Littleberry Dancy, and Albert Gilchrist attended West Point. Others such as Benjamin Putnam and Charles Goldsborough were assisted in their aspirations for office by their links to prominent families. Ties to wealth were important for early Florida surveyors, because, as Knetsch explains, there were "substantial up-front overhead costs which had to be borne by the surveyor. This meant that most of the early surveyors had to have some wealth to perform their contracts or be backed by those who did, most often indicated by those who backed the surveyor's bond" (154).

Florida surveying followed the natural settlement patterns of the state and Knetsch turns last to the surveying and development of the lower peninsula as seen through the experiences of Sam Hope, Albert Gilchrist, and Hamilton Disston. Hope surveyed the region east of the Peace River in the years preceding the Civil War before becoming a politician-developer in the Anclote River area. Gilchrist surveyed the Charlotte Harbor region near the turn of the century before becoming governor in

1908. Knetsch's last essay covers Philadelphia tool and dye manufacturer Hamilton Disston's scheme to transform four million acres of swamp land north of Lake Okeechobee into farm land. Controversial at the time, the project foundered but as Knetsch reminds us, it did transform lower Florida. Knetsch's coverage of the Disston project's impact on settlement, town formation, and the introduction of new agricultural crops in lower Florida is the best in print. Knetsch uses primary documents to both chronicle the project and explode a number of the long-held myths associated with Disston, especially Disston's purported suicide which he seriously questions.

The author's slightly heroic language, a number of typographical errors, and the lack of a bibliography, are a few shortcomings; but these caveats are more than made up by the depth of Knetsch's original research. For those seeking an accessible, engaging introduction to surveying on the Florida frontier in the nineteenth century *Faces on the Frontier* is the place to start.

James M. Denham

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The Invincible Duff Green: Whig of the West. By W. Stephen Belko. (Columbia and London: University of Missouri Press, 2006. Acknowledgments, bibliography, index. Pp. ix, 483. \$44.95 cloth.)

Duff Green was a fantastic character. Politician, journalist, freelance diplomat, and inveterate schemer, he could be found, usually lurking in the shadows just off center stage, in practically every major political event from the Missouri crisis to the Civil War. In frontier Missouri, he helped to galvanize opposition to slavery's restriction and then to draft the new state's constitution. Brought to Washington to edit the *United States' Telegraph*, he masterminded the publicity juggernaut that elected Andrew Jackson in 1828, then played an inside role in the Peggy Eaton and Seminole War controversies that severed Green and his ally John C. Calhoun from Jackson's budding Democracy. Green cropped up again in the 1840s in Mexico and England, busily fomenting Texas annexation as an unofficial agent of the Tyler administration, and again in the secession crisis, as a private emissary from outgoing president James Buchanan to the incoming Abraham Lincoln. His last

significant political foray was a failed effort to mediate between Lincoln and Confederate president Jefferson Davis in 1864. Meanwhile Green's far-flung ventures in land speculation, railroads, shipping, manufacturing, and mining, beginning before 1820 and continuing through Reconstruction, made for a career in their own right. A bold and visionary entrepreneur, Green dreamed big and bet big, gaining and losing several fortunes.

Green's personality was as outsized as his deeds. He was pugnacious and self-righteous, a braggart and a blowhard. Yet despite his vindictiveness and self-importance, he became a consummate backstairs operator, a master of political intrigue. Supremely well-connected, though never widely liked, he knew everybody who mattered. He had a close family connection with John C. Calhoun and a distant one with Abraham Lincoln, and consorted with both.

A grotesque like Duff Green both invites and frustrates biography. His escapades could fill a dozen monographs; his devious and overblown personality challenges the skills of a novelist. Green has inspired at least four doctoral dissertations just since 1980, yet W. Stephen Belko's *The Invincible Duff Green* is, somewhat amazingly, the first full biography ever to reach print.

Belko paints Green as "the quintessential Jacksonian American and Democrat"—"contentious, boisterous, and dynamic" (7, 447). Stubborn, suspicious, a fervent nationalist and unswerving republican, Green resembled no one so much as Andrew Jackson himself. Belko implicitly takes issue with historians who see the essence of Jacksonian Democracy in resistance to the so-called "market revolution." Duff Green spent much of his life forging the very instruments of modern capitalism—corporations, transportation networks, concentrations of finance and industry—that, according to these scholars, Jacksonian Democrats aimed to destroy.

Belko also contests the common picture of Green as a proslavery zealot and Calhoun acolyte. He stresses Green's independence, showing that he often ignored Calhoun's advice and pursued his own path. No narrow sectionalist, Green abhorred disunion (though he ultimately threw in with the Confederacy) and never justified slavery in the abstract. Rather, as a nationalist, he dreaded the corrosive agitation of sectional differences and condemned abolitionists and Green's favorite devils, the British, for fomenting it. A true Jacksonian, his defining political character was western, not southern.

Here Belko's argument verges on special pleading. It is true that Green spoke in national terms. But his primary conception of national policy and even national duty was the defense of slavery. Like Calhoun, he regarded safeguarding slavery as the federal government's paramount obligation and damned as a sectionalist anyone who disagreed. As Belko shows, Green and Calhoun diverged over political tactics, at times endorsing opposing presidential candidates and tracing different, though equally convoluted, paths into and out of Whig and Democratic party alliances. (Belko's *Whig of the West* subtitle is a baffling misnomer, which not only oversimplifies Green's political trajectory but contradicts his purported Democratic representativeness). But if Green was not Calhoun's lackey, he was certainly his lifelong ally. The two never differed fundamentally.

Belko brands Green as a sectional moderate, though his own evidence speaks otherwise. A fuller look at Green's later career, including his stint with the Confederacy, might illuminate the question. But Belko, out of gas (or perhaps having exhausted his publisher's patience) after 440 pages of dense chronicle, wraps up Green's post-1850 doings in a cursory handful of pages.

He also pays short shrift to Green's business ventures. While Belko walks the reader at length through the familiar saga of Washington politics during Green's stint at the *Telegraph*, he paints Green the entrepreneur in broad strokes, sometimes merely listing his many investments and projects. Green's methods in business, unlike his tactics as a political operator, never come into clear focus. This undercuts Belko's character portrait in several ways. First, without an appreciation of Green the capitalist, it is hard to grasp why such an obstreperous and difficult man—and one who, Belko to the contrary, was a terrible political prognosticator with sometimes fantastically bad judgment—commanded any political influence. Second, given Green's monumental egotism and penchant for self-promotion, readers are left wondering which of his myriad business schemes were substantive and which were just smoke.

Indeed, it may be that in viewing Green as a politician first and entrepreneur second we have got him all backwards. After a long discussion of Green's transatlantic lobbying for lower tariff rates in the early 1840s, Belko startles the reader by saying "Green's entire crusade on behalf of free trade and a commercial reciprocity agreement between the United States and England . . . developed from the personal necessity of protecting his mountain invest-

cratic strands that make up the complicated fabric of the Rosenwald school-building program. Erected in fifteen southern states in the years between 1912 and 1932, Rosenwald schools changed the landscape of thousands of rural communities. As the structures evolved from small buildings intended for one teacher to large community edifices offering not only multiple classes but also secondary instruction, they became physical representations of the ideological debates over the nature of education for African Americans in the region. Although the model school buildings took their name from the Chicago philanthropist Julius Rosenwald, their origin lay in the community initiatives of Booker T. Washington of Tuskegee Institute. The program was administered centrally – first from Tuskegee and then from Nashville – but its success depended on the cooperation of state and local officials with community activists. The impact of this school-building program was immense: “One of every five African American schools in the South was a Rosenwald school when the Rosenwald school-building program ended in 1932” (1).

The various architectural designs discussed in the volume illustrate the importance of material culture to our understanding of the history of education in the rural South. The school plans show a shift from “an effort to produce better school buildings for African American communities” to “an intensive campaign for model schools that could lead the South’s drive for modern public education” (85). *The Community School Plans* produced by Samuel L. Smith and Fletcher B. Dresslar in 1921 (and revised in 1927, 1928, and 1931) oriented structures and placed windows to take advantage of natural lighting and ventilation. Sanitation was also a priority. In order to be funded, schools had to be constructed and furnished according to the proposed plans. Thus, “[a]t a time when most rural African American schools had no toilets at all, and many white rural schools had only squalid facilities, two properly constructed and painted privies advertised a Rosenwald school as a model school” (111). What Hoffschwelle finds fascinating is that such plans “created a visual vocabulary for southern rural schools that crossed the color line and suggested that all students could and should learn in professionally designed instructional environments” (113).

By the 1920s, African Americans were engaged in raising the matching funds necessary to construct or expand secondary as well as elementary schools. Hoffschwelle also notes that the success of

the rural school building program led to an interest on the part of urban communities to acquire Rosenwald funds. By the time of Rosenwald's death and the Rosenwald Foundation's termination of the program in 1932, "Rosenwald schools housed one-third of the South's African American public school pupils and teachers and accounted for one-fifth of the South's black public schools and just under one-third of their property value" (272). The consequences of the building program, Hoffschwelle contends, reached far beyond the classroom itself. "Working within the building program's guidelines, black southerners gained access to the growing power of southern educational bureaucracies and the public revenues....Rosenwald schools made it possible for more children to attend school for longer terms and to advance through higher grade levels, contributing to overall increases in African American school attendance and literacy, as well as to the decline in child labor" (272-273).

As part of the University Press of Florida's *New Perspectives on the History of the South*, the volume highlights the distinctiveness of regional school edifices from Florida to Virginia. Rosenwald funds were used to construct 125 buildings in Florida. Hoffschwelle mentions E.L. Snyder, the principal of Clearwater Colored School and teacher Robert Taylor Gilmore of Marianna, for instance, and notes that "Florida A&M received one of the first grants for practice schools at teacher-training programs in the 1920s" (Figure 15, 96). But despite such citations of individual Floridians and of Rosenwald schools in the state, there are unfortunately no vignettes from Florida – or indeed from any of the other Southern states except for North Carolina – detailing how funds were acquired from multiple sources or how the schools were subsequently used to create community centers. The absence of such details leaves the reader with questions about the people involved in these projects. Why were individuals in North Carolina so much more successful than individuals in Florida in acquiring Rosenwald funds? Were Florida public officials less cooperative? Were local communities in Florida less wealthy and/or organized? Did the variations among states such as Florida and North Carolina correlate with racial relations at the state or local level?

The volume is a fascinating study of the bureaucracy and architecture of the schools, but its title, *The Rosenwald Schools of the American South*, suggests a more encompassing analysis than the book provides. A subtitle, specifying Hoffschwelle's focus on schools

as buildings rather than as institutions, would help. Historians of education and of the region will expect more discussion of curriculum and instruction and more mention of students and their families. The author argues that African Americans at the local level “transformed Rosenwald schools into community institutions” (273). But illustrations of the grassroots activism that Hoffschwelle claims the buildings promoted are far and few between. Except for references to the African Americans who worked at Tuskegee and those who later served Rosenwald building agents, the contributions of ordinary black southerners to the success of the program is not apparent. What were the “new public institutions” (2) the schools created? Hoffschwelle’s volume does an excellent job of describing the conception and design of the schools, but James D. Anderson’s classic, *The Education of Blacks in the South, 1860 – 1935* (University of North Carolina Press, 1988) remains the best study of the Rosenwald schools in their historical and cultural context.

Amy Thompson McCandless

College of Charleston

The Swamp: The Everglades, Florida, and the Politics of Paradise,

Michael Grunwald (New York: Simon and Schuster, 2006, 450pp. introduction, epilogue, notes, acknowledgments, index, illustrations. \$27.00 cloth)

Michael Grunwald is a reporter for the *Washington Post* who has been tracking public policy concerning the Everglades for several years, in the process winning numerous awards including an award for his reporting from the Society of Environmental Journalists in 2004. His latest book, *The Swamp*, is a synthesis of his previous work as well as that of other writers—both historians and reformers—on the history of the Everglades. Grunwald’s book covers hundreds of millions of years of history in one volume. He begins with the moving of continents from Pangaea and ends with the most recent national Everglades restoration policies. The book functions as a history of the state with the Everglades as its central character.

Florida historians will find nothing new in the first two-thirds of the book. Much of that material has been explored at length by other writers; however Grunwald engagingly ties in most important events, people and trends from the earliest European expeditions

to the early 20th century measures to “conqueror the Everglades” and places it all in an environmental context. For example, even though most avid readers of Florida know about David Yulee and his Florida railroad, Grunwald is able to locate this familiar story to the Everglades and Florida’s environmental heritage. His theme of the environment and human attempts to control and conquer it supply an interesting vehicle for familiar stories.

However, the material that covers the post World War II period may be unfamiliar to those readers who do not have an interest in environmental history or the Everglades specifically. Grunwald follows in the footsteps of other authors such as John Kunkel Small (*From Eden to Sahara*, 1929) and Marjory Stoneman Douglas (*Everglades: River of Grass*, 1947) who were the early writers that rang the first warning bells concerning the damage caused by the human imprint on this fragile and unique ecosystem. These similar concerns were again raised by more recent writers such as Patricia Lauber (*Everglades Country*, 1973), Wyatt Blassingame (*The Everglades: From Yesterday to Tomorrow*, 1974), Ted Levin (*Liquid Land*, 2004) and most recently David McCally (*The Everglades: An Environmental History*, 2000). Where Grunwald breaks from these writers is that he is finally able to point to the public policies of conserving the Everglades rather than only chronicling the programs and policies hurting it. Ultimately it is slightly less alarmist than Douglas et al and readers will enjoy a denouement where lawmakers are bending over backwards to preserve the Everglades rather than conquering it. Grunwald does not predict that the Everglades is safely on the track to rehabilitation, rather he is just noting the change in attitudes on the part of politicians, clear it is too early to be too optimistic.

The greatest achievement of this book is its readability and accessibility to a general audience. With a journalist background Grunwald’s writing is engaging and compelling. Historians will not find traditional citations but annotated references that may not be as useful as a scholarly text on the subject, but it should point them in the right direction. Grunwald’s audience is not an academic one, so scholars should not expect detailed endnotes or historiography, for that they will need to consult McCally, Jack Davis and other Florida environmental historians. In a sense *The Swamp* is history itself, it may mark the point that writers stop pointing to the fire and began to instead evaluate the job of putting the fire out.

Robert Cassanello

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Trembling Earth: A Cultural History of the Okefenokee Swamp. By Megan Kate Nelson. (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2006. Acknowledgements, illustrations, map, notes, bibliography, index. Pp. xv, 262. \$34.95 cloth.)

Recent trends in the study of environmental history have emphasized not merely the destruction or preservation of natural environments but their social construction as well. What expectations have individuals and groups brought to the natural environment, and how has competition over those expectations shaped the resulting interaction between humans and the natural world?

While an overarching synthesis of this process will have to wait for future generations of historians, environmental historians have focused on the interplay between society and the environment by examining the changing cultural significance of particular rivers, forests, or other natural features. Megan Kate Nelson asserts the utility of the concept of “ecolocalism,” which she says “conceiv[es] of cultural identity as rooted in a locale oriented to a specific ecosystem,” (5) as a tool for understanding this cultural process. Nelson envisions ecolocalism as a new interpretive framework through which historians can “compare local cultures transnationally.” (5) Thus her work purports to take historians closer to the goal of synthesizing the relationship between culture and environment on a national or even global scale. Yet this book is not a theoretical manifesto; rather, it is a finely constructed work of environmental history to which a clever and perhaps useful theoretical term has been appended.

Trembling Earth is a fascinating examination of the cultural meanings attributed to the Okefenokee Swamp, along the Georgia-Florida border, from colonial times to the mid- twentieth century. The swamp, composed of dirty water and watery earth, serves as a tool through which Nelson examines the rules governing society, the meaning of alienation and “otherness,” and the relationship between culture and place. Each new group of individuals brought with them certain assumptions about land use, property rights, and the role the swamp might play in their future lives. But the swamp itself defied such categorization.

As early planters had seen in it the potential for future agricultural development, slaves saw in it a sanctuary from plantation life. The task system of labor, in which slaves who had completed their assigned task for the day could have the rest of that day for

their own pursuits, encouraged slaves on Georgia's rice plantations to use adjacent swamp lands for farming, hunting, and fishing, but the swamp also served as a gathering place free from white supervision or incursion. It also provided refuge for fugitive slaves while serving as a conduit to Spanish Florida (which gave freedom to runaways from Georgia) for those hoping for a permanent escape.

As Florida passed into the hands of the United States, white authors began to treat the swamp as devoid of any human habitation whatsoever, thus attempting to replace the swamp-as-refuge with the more forbidding image of the swamp-as-barrier. Such treatment eventually inspired whites to reexamine the Okefenokee, and the swamp became a place where (white) men proved their manhood and tamed nature. The Seminole Wars served as the backdrop against which a whole generation of whites rediscovered the Okefenokee, and redefined their own relationship with nature.

This transformation, in turn, set the stage for what Nelson calls the "entrepreneurial Okefenokee," an exploitative and unsustainable attempt to alter the landscape of the region to a more profitable form. Nelson dates this emergence to the 1850s, though clearly the boosterism of the 1880s and beyond certainly hastened that transition, inspiring plans for logging the timber, draining the swamp, and constructing the plank roads and railroads that would eventually make the Okefenokee part of a modern, industrial South. At the time, more than one "self-made man" envisioned his own relationship with the Okefenokee as Stanley and Livingstone had with the African forest. But here too, the swamp resisted categorization, as the failure of the Suwanee Canal and other ventures would attest: the Okefenokee might tolerate exploration, but its complexity defied easy exploitation.

Where the capitalists of the 1890s saw the Okefenokee as a source of raw material to feed a national industrial economy, the Swampers practiced a constantly shifting, mostly sustainable and largely self-sufficient way of life. While ethnically diverse, the Swamper communities were generally lumped together by outsiders as "poor whites" living on the margin of both the economic and cultural mainstream of the South. Much as the swamp had provided a buffer zone between slavery and freedom for blacks in the colonial period, it now provided a buffer between the modern capitalist South and those who didn't quite fit into it. Swamper interests clashed with both the entrepreneurs and the preserva-

tionists, as they sought to live within the swamp rather than either destroy or preserve it.

The book ends with an epilogue in which Nelson examines the impact of tourism on the Okefenokee. Here, as with the chapters on entrepreneurs, Swampers, and preservationists, Nelson's story sounds much like those presented by scholars of Appalachia and other marginal regions. The region, having been exploited by outside interests only to the extent that such exploitation was profitable, was left to market itself as a tourist destination on the basis of its historical isolation and its ecological uniqueness. Nelson's treatment of tourism is superficial, however, and is the one weak spot in an otherwise stellar narrative.

Nelson clearly loves the Okefenokee for its beauty and its mysteries; indeed, its very ambiguity seems to have drawn the author to the topic, much as it drew the human subjects of her study in the past. The book is well written, exhaustively documented, and extremely well presented. Whether or not the reader subscribes to the author's assertion of ecolocalism as a useful theoretical device for understanding the relationship between culture and environment, Nelson must be commended for this pathbreaking study of the cultural significance of the Okefenokee Swamp, which should interest both general audiences and specialists in environmental and cultural history.

Stephen Wallace Taylor

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Interstate Water Allocation in Alabama, Florida, and Georgia: New Issues, New Methods, New Models. By Jeffrey L. Jordan and Aaron T. Wolf, editors. (Gainesville, FL: University Press of Florida, 2006. Acknowledgements, illustrations, tables, maps, notes, index. Pp. xiv, 271. \$55 cloth.)

Long-term population growth and economic development in the arid West has long produced conflict over water resource allocation, and such conflict is becoming increasingly common in the humid southeastern United States. Jeffrey Jordan, an agricultural economist, and Aaron Wolf, a geographer, have assembled a collection of essays intended to further our understanding of the hotly contested allocation of water resources from two major river networks in Alabama, Georgia and Florida—the Apalachicola-

Chattahoochee-Flint (ACF) and the Alabama-Coosa-Tallapoosa (ACT). Both of these river basins feature several dams, so the systems are heavily managed, and yet in many years there is not enough water to meet all the demands placed on these basins. In addition to Jordan and Wolf (who contribute to four of the book's eleven chapters) the remaining authors represent a variety of perspectives including sociology, economics, engineering, the law, and public service (including government and non-government organizations). Like many edited volumes, this book is broad ranging, so virtually all readers will encounter at least a couple of chapters that are far removed from their comfort zone. That said, the book's breadth makes clear that water resource conflicts are complex phenomena involving many different social actors and interests, and that experts from many different fields contribute meaningfully to our understanding of such conflicts.

The book is organized around three major sections consisting of three to four chapters each. I must confess mild disappointment at the editors' decision to not include an introductory chapter that might take a stand or present a coherent argument. Their stated aim in a two-page preface, "to further the understanding of the often arduous process of allocating water when it crosses political boundaries" (pp. xiii), seems insufficient for an introduction (particularly for such a wide ranging book). Water resource conflicts are struggles in which economic and political power play a large role in deciding who gets what and when. The book makes this and other points, but there is no real road map at the beginning.

In any event, the first section describes the setting, issues and stakeholders in each of the two river systems. Both river basins originate in northern Georgia, and both drain significant chunks of western Georgia and eastern Alabama. The Coosa and Tallapoosa Rivers eventually merge in central Alabama to form the Alabama River, which ultimately empties into Mobile Bay in southern Alabama; the Chattahoochee and Flint Rivers merge behind a dam at the Florida/southwestern Georgia border to form the Apalachicola River, which bisects the Florida Panhandle before emptying into Apalachicola Bay. The authors correctly point out that northern Georgia's rapid growth and development is compelling that state to make progressively greater use of their surface water—and that is a problem for downstream users in Alabama and Florida, especially during the region's periodic droughts. Georgia's extensive use of water from each basin threatens

Alabama's growth potential, while Florida is more concerned with declining flows in the Apalachicola River because such flows provide important nourishment for this river's biologically rich flood plains and the Apalachicola Bay estuary. The authors of these first three chapters do a thorough job of examining in detail the variety of competing interests in the region such as those of the federal government (including responsibilities of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers—which is responsible for maintaining river water levels for navigation, hydropower generation, flood control, and recreation); agriculture (irrigation); commercial seafood harvesting; municipal water suppliers; and industrial users (especially power generators). They also point out that the quantity of water in these heavily managed rivers is complicated by concerns over the reliability of flow, the timing and extent of flow fluctuations, and water quality issues.

The middle section of the book consists of four very broad ranging chapters, each devoted to a discussion of case studies of water conflicts between other U.S. states, and a few additional case studies of international water conflicts. At first glance it seems a bit strange that roughly 40% of a book ostensibly devoted to helping us understand water resource conflict in the southeast is actually a discussion of similar conflicts outside the region. Yet these chapters examine a range of practical and legal issues germane to the southeast and in three of the four chapters, the authors made a conscious effort to relate the discussion to the ACF and ACT river basins.

The next three chapters suggest a variety of methods and models used in analyzing the conflict in the southeast. Chapter 8 patiently reviews the likely social impacts to stakeholders for three different water allocation scenarios. Chapter 9 makes the case for incorporating adaptive learning in managing the systems. Pursuing an adaptive learning strategy calls for greater information sharing and flexibility in managing the river systems as we learn more about how they function and react to management decisions. Chapter 10 is a discussion of attempts to model both river systems so that reservoir managers are better positioned to make crucial decisions regarding how much water they allow downstream and when. This chapter will be a struggle for those less technically oriented.

Finally, in a fascinating concluding chapter and brief afterward, the editors recount the negotiations and legal maneuver-

ing between the three states over the past several years. They rightly call attention to the fact that although there has been more failure than successful negotiation so far—most interstate water agreements take decades to iron out. Although at times the book ranges far from the southeast, and there is some challenging technical discussion, the editors have crafted a volume that neatly summarizes many of the crucial issues that emerge when significant demands are made on surface waters that move across state lines. The numerous maps are of fine quality and very useful. Although not environmental history per se, it is occasionally informed by historical perspectives. Were it not for its hefty price tag, the book would be well suited to college level courses in environmental policy, water resource management, and the geography of Florida or the South.

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Down to the Waterline: Boundaries, Nature, and the Law in Florida. By Sara Warner (Athens, GA: University of Georgia Press, 2005. Pp. xiv, 266. Acknowledgements, introduction, illustrations, notes, glossary, bibliography, index. \$44.95 cloth.)

The crux of environmental history is the way in which the forces of technology and culture have made and remade landscapes. Sara Warner's *Down to the Waterline: Boundaries, Nature, and the Law in Florida* highlights the manner in which these forces have played out along the much contested ordinary high water line (OHWL). The OHWL stands as an important legal boundary, the line on nontidal waters where publicly owned navigable waterways meet privately owned uplands. In Florida, with more than 11,000 miles of streams, rivers, and waterways, this boundary is especially important and is often at the center of controversies over what are sovereign state lands. The importance of the line is enhanced on this landscape of wide, flat floodplains on which the rise or fall of just a foot in water level can change the shoreline by hundreds of feet. With the population boom in Florida in the twentieth century and the accompanying drive to develop more waterfront properties, the function of the OHWL has only become more significant. Warner, an analyst at the Bureau of Surveying and Mapping, Division of State Lands, Florida Department of

Environmental Protection, does a meticulous job mapping out the legal, technical, and cultural dimensions of this key boundary. She also traces what popular notions of the OWHL have been over time, a difficult task as much confusion has surrounded understandings of the definition of this border line.

When Florida became a state in 1845, the beds and shores of its waterways became sovereign land, to be held in public trust in perpetuity by the new state government. Although it took some years, the demarcation between public and private lands was established at the OHWL. This legal concept, primarily drawn from the ordinary high watermark principle in English common law, developed through centuries of legal precedents contributed by the legal traditions of many countries. The legal understanding of the OWHL has continued to evolve with rulings over the 160 years of Florida statehood. Debate over the definition of the OWHL has heated up in the past four decades. In 1963, Florida's Title Act, sped up the pace of land transactions by extinguishing any claim more than thirty years old against the property being transacted. Although the act worked well for its purposes, the legislation failed to exempt sovereign lands from its effects, thus allowed for the transfer of thousands of acres of sovereign lands into private hands. The rapid conversion of state lands to private property increased scrutiny of the location of OHWL as legal boundary.

In that the line is a legal concept, it is also a real point on the landscape, one that must be located and mapped. Warner points out that the OHWL is an extension of a natural phenomenon, unlike abstract notions such as township, range, and section. In the early part of the state's history this line was regarded as "always manifest" on the landscape a spot where the "the action of the water has permanently marked itself upon the soil." Through legal challenges in the early part of the twentieth century, however, it was recognized that the topography of the state made locating the OHWL less than obvious. In Florida waterways without the traditional riverbank, the low, vegetated waterline makes more it difficult to say with certainty where the line exists. The growth in the importance of the OWHL has paralleled and been driven by the boom in Florida's population over the last century. Accompanying the growing demand for waterfront property is an increasing insistence on accurately determining the boundary line. The need for precision has led to more elaborate scientific methods to find the OHWL. As the line has been contested, however, Warner points

out that it has brought something nearing a crisis of authority in the surveying profession. Private property interests argued that surveyors set the line too high and are complicit in, what has been more recently dubbed, a land grab effort to bring more acreage under state control. These interests argued that the line should be measured the way it was done in the past, failing to recognize the OWHL as a naturally existing boundary that is where it is, but rather a static legal concept.

Along with its legal and technical dimensions, the OWHL is a marker of how we see the natural world, and with that understanding, tracing the history of the line allows us to see the ways in which this view has shifted and changed over time. Nothing exemplifies this more than the modern efforts to remake and then restore the Kissimmee River. Warner does an excellent job weaving the modern history of the Kissimmee into her narrative, retelling the conversion of the river to canal—a story, according to Warner, that is “in many ways, like a modern biblical narrative (Warner pg. 47).” The Kissimmee, historically a 103 mile long meandering river that lay within a one to two mile wide floodplain, is a central inland waterway of southern Florida. In the 1960s the river was transformed from its free flowing state and streamlined into what was designated Canal 38. The remaking of the Kissimmee well exemplifies the drive to “rationalize” or “fix” nature. An impulse, as Warner recognizes, to make the Kissimmee River like “regular rivers.” Warner notes that streamlining the waterway is also a reflection of the cultural view of water in Florida, one that sees an overabundance and a need to send water seaward as quickly as possible. That view rapidly changed in the climate of the 1970s and 1980s as many realized what had been done to the river, including the dramatic loss of some fish and waterfowl populations and degradation in water quality. In 1992 Congress authorized the Water Resources Development Act with a goal of restoring a large portion of the river, an effort that is ongoing.

In the end, Warner offers a sanguine note that, as our understanding of the natural world becomes more complex, we are moving toward a view of seeing ourselves as a part of—not apart from—nature. Despite bitter court battles over the OWHL in recent years in Florida, she sees citizens becoming more sophisticated in their understanding of their relationship to their environment. She points to the spate of environmental legislation that has followed passage of the landmark 1965 Federal Water

Quality Act. Her discussion of the current support of the effort to naturalize the flow of the Kissimmee River stands as evidence of this as well.

Warner's work is an informed and thoughtful analysis, which addresses many facets, cultural, technical, and legal, of the OHWL adeptly. She has done an excellent job of making a complex legal and technical concept accessible. One of the most salient elements of the book is the author's passion for her topic; Warner comes across as a person with a deep appreciation for the landscape on which she writes.

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Saving South Beach. By M. Barron Stofik. Foreword by Gary R. Mormino and Raymond Arsenault. (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2005. Acknowledgement, illustrations, notes, index. Pp. xi 303. 27.95 Cloth.)

The 1960s marked a shift in academic thinking as scholars began to acknowledge architectural history and preservation as a vital field within the academy. At the same time, the National Historic Preservation Act (1966) created the first comprehensive federal program to preserve significant properties. Despite the federal mandate, historic preservation in the United States has not followed an orderly pattern. National, state, and local organizations have entered into the fray with varying degrees of success. Consensus has developed around the idea that historical merit, more than artistic uniqueness or nostalgia should define preservation activities, prompting debate as supporters and detractors often struggle to define the broad historical framework that should be used to justify preservation. In *Saving South Beach* historic preservation clashes with development as each side vies for control of this tourist enclave. Preservationist M. Barron Stofik weaves together themes of civic identity, politics, and cultural tension in the story behind the transformation of South Beach.

In recent years region-specific interpretations of U.S. development have stressed southern and western demographic change. This emphasis has led scholars like Joel Garreau (*Edge City: Life on the New Frontier*) and Jon Teaford (*Post-Suburbia: Government and Politics in the Edge Cities*) to consider the Sunbelt as a focal point of

postwar development. Without question, an expanding population has increased the socioeconomic impact of urban development and made Florida a vital part of the Sunbelt phenomenon. This book is a case study that uses oral history to talk about Miami Beach development. While it lacks the depth of recent social history on Florida such as Gary Mormino's *Land of Sunshine, State of Dreams* (2006), this work attempts to understand the actors who shaped development in South Beach. On this score it succeeds, offering a mix of character study and frank analysis about the development process that transformed the former retirement community into a global style center.

The author's account begins with brief overview of Miami Beach history that focuses on its emergence as playground for the rich and famous. In the aftermath of the Florida land boom, Miami Beach continued as a haven for the rich. Indeed, its appeal expanded as middle-class Americans determined to enjoy postwar posterity flocked to the city. To Stofik's credit she spends some time explaining the relationship between the Jewish community and Miami Beach. With restrictions barring Jews from many hotels, Jewish visitors clustered in areas willing to cater to them. Over time, their presence helped to define the area as retirees, "gravitate to South Beach to spend their gold years in the warmth and safety of a familiar neighborhood....." (17).

The trigger for modern redevelopment came in the mid-seventies when the decision to label South Beach a blighted area galvanized residents and led to a historic preservation campaign. This activism united gays, young professionals, elderly residents, local business interests, and academics into the Miami Design Preservation League, which used the lure of cultural tourism to counter development pressure. The league was able to create a historic district that forestalled pro-construction interests seeking prime oceanfront property for new convention space (53).

Stofik's narrative stresses that simply having the preservation district did not ensure success. As outside investors moved in and purchased property, a slow gentrification process began. Negative views of Miami Beach expanded as an influx of 125,000 Cubans from the Mariel boatlift put 8,000 new residents in South Beach, rising racial tension sparked civil unrest, and cocaine smuggling from Columbia heighten crime and social unrest in the region. In the midst of these trying times, a complex relationship between business and preservation added to the drama. Traditional prop-

erty management often pitted developers against preservationists. More often than not business interests saw preservation as an obstacle to profit, generating negative feelings. The struggle to control development meant constant scrutiny. While some saw a slow and steady decline of the community, others believed preservation would be the engine that created new growth.

The need to balance development against preserving the viewscape increased as growth in business and tourism meant that basic infrastructure problems became apparent. Providing parking and managing infrastructure in South Beach mirrored problems found in New Orleans, San Francisco, and Boston, where the debate between preservation and business found little common ground (165). Political infighting and personality conflict marked the maturation of the preservation movement as the success of historic district caused residents to question the vision for preservation. The ongoing debate, whether preservation should preserve architecture or be a tool for guided capital investment could not be settled. As older members of the preservation campaign were displaced, accusations of failed opportunities and overt commercialism jeopardizing historic preservation increasingly marred the historic district's reputation. Complaints from concerned local residents could not outweigh increased revenue and the younger demographic that city officials and business leaders saw as vital for community stability.

The author's narrative shows a consistent sensibility for South Beach's pop culture relevance throughout the book. In mid 1980s, when the city struggled to promote community development, it was *Miami Vice* that created a new image for South Beach. The push to re-vitalize that came along with this surge in interest meant that residents within the development zone and outside it felt pressured by entrepreneurs looking to jump start development (152). Later Stofik's examination of Gianni Versace's transformation of the Amsterdam Palace into a personal home served to emphasize the importance of money and connections in the "preservation process." Stofik's discussion of the angry commentary surrounding Versace's renovations illustrates the basic debate over economic viability versus architectural worth that plagues preservationists across the United States (224). Stofik's examination of development illustrates a kind of détente between business and preservation. A balance that accepts the displacement associated with gentrification, but offers reassurance through history

and preservation of culture. The author manages to convey some of the human cost for South Beach's revival, but the fundamental question of displacement, race, and power that shape historic preservation remains unresolved.

Julian C. Chambliss

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Atlas of Race, Ancestry, and Religion in 21st-Century Florida. By Morton D. Winsberg. (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2006. Pp. 125. 139 maps, 12 tables. Cloth \$29.95.)

It is well known that Florida has a uniquely diverse history. In *Atlas of Race, Ancestry, and Religion in 21st-Century Florida*, Morton Winsberg offers a new glimpse into the complexity of that diversity. This short book details the state demographics beyond the scope of race and draws fascinating conclusions about intersections of religion, era of arrival, and age in addition to racial distribution. With 139 maps and 12 tables, Winsberg packs an impressive amount of information into a small space and provides readers with a valuable reference for better understanding the movement of people over time in the Sunshine State. Given the current sensational interest in immigration, this work offers a robust context in which to understand Florida's historic and contemporary influx.

Nigerians, the only significant Sub-Saharan African immigrant population in Florida, were drawn to Tallahassee in the 1960s because of Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University and Florida State University; Asian Indians, Bangladeshis, Sri Lankans and Pakistanis populate Orlando in a higher proportion than in the nation; the Southeast Gold Coast region of the state has one of the highest Hispanic populations in the nation and among the highest Catholic presence...the Gold Coast also has a significant Turkish population and Muslim presence. Florida's famed white retiree population, especially in the Tampa and Miami areas, is in decline and growth of a younger demographic is changing the face of Florida.

Atlas is separated into five chapters: A Brief History of the Population of Florida; County Population Concentrations; A Brief History of Religion in Florida; Contemporary Distribution of Religious Denominations in Florida; and Racial and Ancestry

Distribution within Florida's Largest Urban Areas. In addition to providing distribution maps that represent the various county populations, Winsberg also presents areas where certain populations are overrepresented in the state or nation. This is helpful in discerning where there is simply a large population and where a significant demographic trend has taken place. Where this happens, the author suggests reasons for these phenomena which clues the reader in to keywords they may use to find further information on demographic fits and starts.

The maps and tables alone make the book invaluable to Florida scholars. We can now easily track the regional distribution of the 65 and older population by race (Tables 1.4 a-d), view a color-coded map of where Assembly of God, Episcopal, and Independent Charismatic church members reside (67-69), and have a list of numbers for inhabitants from Canada, Lithuania, Nicaragua, Haiti, and Vietnam (91-93). This guide will allow discussions of Florida's diversity to move beyond generalizations and will be especially handy for university faculty, elementary and secondary school teachers, and policy makers alike.

The only discernable drawbacks of the text are that it does not provide a gender break down and it has no index. It would be interesting to know the male and female dynamics of age, ancestry, and religion to see if gender immigration trends have changed over the years and what the implications of a younger Florida might mean in terms of dating and mating projections. Though the book is very straightforward and accessible, an index would have allowed readers a means by which to cross-reference specific variables of interest. Income would have been another factor to add richness to the study, but given the largeness of the project, such smaller variables were understandable sacrifices. Beyond these aspects of my „wish list“ for this text, I am grateful that the data is provided as is. Getting this vast amount of information in one place was, undoubtedly, a Herculean task; that the author and his collaborators were able to make the package tidy and attractive is admirable.

Morton Winsberg, emeritus professor of geography at Florida State University, also authored the *Atlas of Florida* and *Florida Weather*. His extensive journal publications date back to the 1960s and each have made some contribution to better understanding the dynamics of race, age, and geography; it is no wonder that this *Atlas* is such a keen collection of highly-organized details. Clearly this is a text that

the author completed as a labor of love and one he would, after all his research, find of interest and use. The distinct intersection of broad topics, compact construction, and reasonable price make this an appealing choice and a fascinating read. For those interested in the past, present, and future of Florida populations, this is a must-have reference for your collection.

Stephanie Y. Evans

University of Florida

Losing It All To Sprawl: How Progress Ate My Cracker Landscape. By Bill Belleville. (Gainesville and other cities: University Press of Florida, 2006. Foreword by Gary Mormino and Raymond Arsenault, acknowledgements, preface, bibliography. PP. xvii, 193. \$24.95 cloth.)

In this work, veteran author and documentary filmmaker Bill Belleville poignantly chronicles the effect of sprawling urban development in central Florida. Blending an environmental narrative style with the historical notion of a bygone "old Florida," the author eloquently describes the threat of commercial, urban development to the notion of space and nature. At the centerpiece of Belleville's work lies his nearly hundred-year old Cracker-style residence, once home to rural families who have since left central Florida for the calm of less developed Southern locales. The author vividly connects the significance of his house to its surrounding (but shrinking) ecological environment.

Belleville does well in providing a literary voice for his numerous friends and neighbors, all of whom occupy a primary role in human interactions with land and development. The author depicts the harried, pushy temperament of commercial developers with a refreshing dose of animosity and glib humor. Much along the same ideological lines as Adam Rome's *The Bulldozer of the Countryside: Suburban Sprawl and the Rise of American Environmentalism*, Belleville shows that pro-growth capitalists in Seminole County utilize their considerable clout to foster commercial and residential growth machines. An avid kayaker and diver, Belleville exposes the heartbreaking damage of development within the Wekiva River watershed.

In recounting how progress destroyed his inherited cracker countryside, the author intertwines personal stories with graceful

descriptions of the central Florida landscape, its flora and fauna, and its ecological demise. Belleville presents development in Florida as a story that predates his fifteen-year residence on Sewell Road. Human intrusion, expansion and “progress” in the state can initially be traced to the elimination of the Timucua and Mayaca peoples by Spanish conquistadors in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. In the dawn of the 1900s, tourists-turned-newcomers were largely successful in their goals of modernization and climitization of the state. Today, many rural Florida communities like Lake Monroe are transformed and ultimately crumble under the weight of commercial sprawl. Unbridled growth and development currently threaten considerable portions of rural Florida, casting ominous shadows over the future of sensitive ecological systems as well as our own sense of place and history. With state and local governments encouraging growth, Florida remains one of the nation’s fastest growing states. Belleville accounts for the impacts-social, political, natural, personal-that a community consumed by unsustainable growth ultimately must endure.

Belleville’s story is heartfelt and informed, and his work accessible to a wide range of audiences. Scholars in Southern, Florida and Environmental history will find the book compelling and intensely personal. The author’s work fits nicely alongside Janisse Ray’s *Ecology of a Cracker Childhood* and, perhaps even closer to home, Al Burt’s *The Tropic of Cracker* and Rob Storter’s *Crackers in the Glade*. Teachers and students in undergraduate Southern Studies or Florida History courses should find Belleville’s book to be a valuable literary match with Michael Gannon’s *The New History of Florida*.

Robert Krause

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Book Notes

Lighthouse Point, Florida: The First 50 Years. By Dan Hobby. (Lighthouse Point, FL: City of Lighthouse Point, Florida, 2005. Pp. 96. Introduction, acknowledgements, photographs, epilogue, lists of mayors, lighthouse keepers and elected officials. \$29.95 cloth.)

In the twenty-first century, not many American towns have living among them the citizens who founded the community. If that occurrence is more likely in Florida, a frontier long after others closed, it is still unusual enough to warrant celebration and a book to mark the town's fiftieth anniversary. Lighthouse Point, Florida, was established in 1956, fifty years after the construction of the structure at the mouth of Hillsboro Inlet that gave the town its name. Lighthouse Point benefited from the post-World War II economic and baby booms that facilitated home construction everywhere, and drew men and women eager to live in the sunnier southern climates they had discovered during their military experience. Development began in 1950 with the Hillsboro Isles Corporation (Larry Tunison and Carl Williamson) and the Hillsboro Land Company (Robert Bateman). Potential buyers were enticed to the area through advertising campaigns that included slick promotional literature and special events that featured the Florida Cypress Garden Water Ski Revue and cruises on the Jungle Queen tour boat.

Dan Hobby's book offers a readable and upbeat history of the town. He begins with a sense of the frontier history of the area, including confrontations between white settlers and Native Americans. Early development, including "Cap" Knight's enterprises and his associations with the humble and the mighty demonstrate the not-altogether-orderly era of the region. Once town

development commenced, however, Lighthouse Point embodied community spirit, volunteerism and a determination to prevent absorption into larger municipalities. Through images and a brisk narrative, Hobby conveys both the details of city incorporation and the social webs that make a community and a political entity. While the book will appeal primarily to local readers, it should not be overlooked by students and scholars interested in community development in the twentieth century. The book can be ordered by contacting the City of Lighthouse Point, Florida at 954-946-6398 or online at www.lighthousepoint.com.

A Tropical Frontier: Pioneers and Settlers of Southeast Florida, 1800-1890. By Tim Robinson. (Port Salerno, FL: Port Sun Publishing, 2005. Pp. i-653. Acknowledgements, forward, introduction, appendices, bibliography. \$109.95 cloth.)

It will be evident to any reader of this one-volume compendium of southeast Florida's pioneers that Tim Robinson has devoted an extraordinary effort to compiling individual family remembrances, county histories, and public records into a treasure trove of stories that "flesh out" the public records of land acquisition and settlement. Starting with the census records and federal and state claims records, Robinson locates the farms and towns, verifies the time of settlement and names the family members who lived on the Florida frontier—a feat that, by itself, would be a significant contribution for historians seeking to understand the frontier's social patterns or genealogists searching for lost family members. However, he goes further, scouring published memoirs and diaries, as well as local histories, to provide anecdotes that detail work habits, educational opportunities, religious services, and family celebrations. Robinson clearly understands the limitations of individual memories, often collected long after the event, and he cross-references many conflicting accounts to allow the reader the opportunity to see the problems historians encounter. This meticulous attention to detail enhances the sense of a connected community and allows readers to see for themselves the problems social historians encounter.

Robinson opens his work with a seventeen page essay entitled "A Tropical Frontier." Here he sets the context for understanding the pioneer settlers. In a land where "water was almost every-

where, and the endless variations in depth made travel difficult," Robinson draws upon the works of others to clearly explain the natural features in language that makes "old hands" from newcomers. In addition, his delineation of the various state and federal land acts provides a clear articulation of the opportunities and the barriers to landownership in nineteenth-century Florida. Finally, his discussion of waterways and pioneer production gives the reader a foundation for understanding the economy of the southeastern frontier.

Although many readers may balk at the hefty price, Robinson's *A Tropical Frontier* is a delightful book, and those expecting to "look up" a few individuals will quickly find themselves drawn into the stories, moving from one family to the next as the community unfolds. Moreover, for scholars working in the area of frontier Florida, the compilation of so many names, landholding citations, and early bibliographies will provide an easy reference for their own research. Information about purchases can be obtained through Port Sun Publishing, P.O. Box 334, Port Salerno, FL 34992 or by email at floribooks@yahoo.com.

Florida's Historic Forts, Camps and Battlefields: A Pictorial Encyclopedia. By Donald D. Spencer. (Ormond Beach, FL: Camelot Publishing, 2006. Pp. 420. Preface, military history, images, list of fort sites and museums, references and selected readings, index, picture credits. \$49.95 paper.)

This illustrated encyclopedia of Florida's military history includes black and white and color photographs as well as drawings that span the period from early Spanish confrontations with Native Americans to recent images of air and naval bases. The accompanying text provides entries on individual military leaders, forts and battles, as well as guides to battlefields and military museums. A selected bibliography encourages further exploration of Florida's military history and a well-designed index makes the book readily accessible to a variety of readers.

Spencer describes more than 830 forts, camps, battlefields, bases, stockades, arsenals, blockhouses, battles, military leaders, weapons, and military museums in brisk language that is jargon-free and informative. In one example, his entry on Fort Jefferson describes the fort as "one of the largest brick structures

in the Western Hemisphere” and goes on to explain its strategic importance, the manner of construction, its role in the Civil War, later uses of the fort and restoration efforts. The ten-page entry includes vintage and recent black-and-white photographs of the 150-year old fort.

Many of the book’s numerous drawings and photographs are period images, and a number of the images are historic postcards. However, the editorial decision to cite all images at the end of the book in a section labeled “Picture Credits” makes the images more difficult to use for other scholars. That criticism aside, this pictorial encyclopedia provides a good reference for a variety of readers interested in Florida’s military history. Copies of the book can be obtained through Camelot Publishing, P.O. Box 731138, Ormond Beach, FL 32173, telephone (386) 672-5672.