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Book Reviews

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Book Reviews

The Last Generation: Young Virginians in Peace, War, and Reunion. By Peter S. Carmichael. (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2005. Pp. xiv, 343. Illustrations, appendix, bibliography, index. \$55 cloth, \$19.95 paper.)

In his latest offering, *The Last Generation: Young Virginians in Peace, War, and Reunion*, Peter S. Carmichael examines the struggle of young Virginians to forge a viable identity amid sectional strife and generational conflict. Reminiscent of Salinger's intellectual inspection of Holden Caulfield, Carmichael brilliantly harnesses correspondence, speeches, and theses to dissect the youthful, progressive mindset of the last generation of Virginia slaveholders. Beginning in the 1850's, the book chronicles over half a century of state and national history, granting a full-circle analysis of the final generation to grow up with slavery.

Carmichael's main argument revolves around the last generation's disappointment with Virginia's status in the Union. Young Virginians, he maintains, felt that under the leadership of "old fogies" blindly devoted to aristocratic leisure and the cavalier image, the state had fallen from Revolutionary-era glory and "endured an intense and unrelenting assault from outsiders" (26). The last generation sought to restore Virginia to national prominence by blending their traditional connection to founding fathers like Washington, Jefferson, and Henry with progressive economic and cultural ideas. Young Virginians distanced themselves from the stereotypical cavalier image, replacing it with that of a Christian gentleman devoted to morality, leadership, and ambition. Carmichael clearly traces how young Virginians attempted to force together contrasting ideas of slavery, economic diversification, bourgeois materialism, and southern morality.

For a time the last generation held strongly for Unionism, citing their own legendary forefathers' role in its formation. However, Carmichael argues convincingly that, "John Brown's raid in 1859 delivered a blow to the last generation's Unionism, and many young Virginians became receptive to the idea of a Southern nation" (117). He successfully demonstrates how sentiments at the universities and military institutes of Virginia -the incubators of the last generation's progressive thought- changed after the raid. The last generation now imagined themselves as the founding fathers of a new Union, leading the southern states into modern glory. Young Virginians served heavily in the War Between the States, relying on religious faith and honor to withstand the brutal nature of the conflict. Although they were mainly junior officers, Carmichael uses examples like Greenlee Davidson's compromises with Confederate soldiers, which prevented desertions, to show the crucial nature of their role as intermediaries between elite leadership and the lower class soldiers.

Following the war, Carmichael claims that the last generation accepted New South ideology purely out of necessity. While laying the groundwork for a new free-market, capitalist economic system, they quickly found they had under-estimated the importance of slavery in Virginia's antebellum economy. Members of the last generation were among the first to battle extremists for control of Civil War memory, mainly in an attempt to further Virginia's prestige in the newly restored Union. Ironically, though, Carmichael argues that as the last generation entered old age, they reverted to their fathers' brand of conservatism. The cavalier, an image they had previously attempted to dismantle, was now lionized as a recognizable symbol of honor and heritage. The last generation became consumed with the task of preserving their place in history and subsequently felt that they had slighted themselves by giving up their glorious Confederate ideals so quickly after the war. In the end, the last generation succeeded in transforming Virginia economically and culturally, but "the reality of the dream never quite fulfilled its glorious promise," leaving them "trapped in a materialistic marketplace that they did not understand or desire... and longing for the return of a world that was a terrible fiction" (236).

The Last Generation successfully blends historical elements of memory, generational conflict, and identity construction to provide a masterful examination of Virginia's last generation to grow

up with slavery. Carmichael freely admits to the constraints impeding the book - mainly a scarcity of long-term source material - which forced him to utilize a "collage of snapshots" in order to convey a complete portrait of the last generation (7). Although this lack of source material excludes some young Virginians from the study, Carmichael's conclusions remain solid, while the thoroughness and originality of his research is laudable. His efforts make this book a must read for historians interested in the Civil War, its memory, Virginia, or southern identity.

Matthew Hulbert

Carolina State University

Race, War, and Remembrance in the Appalachian South. By John C. Inscoe. (Lexington, KY: University Press of Kentucky, 2008. Acknowledgements, introduction, credits, index. Pp. xv, 395. \$50 cloth.)

As the leading scholar of race in 19th century Appalachia, John Inscoe has cast a long shadow over most modern work in the field. He has authored *Mountain Masters: Slavery and the Sectional Crisis in Western North Carolina* and *Appalachians and Race: The Mountain South From Slavery to Segregation*, both of which have become standard reading for scholars of the region. In the present collection, Inscoe, a professor of history at the University of Georgia, offers readers a collection of essays he wrote and published over the course of the previous twenty years in an attempt to outline his broad philosophy regarding Appalachia's experience with slavery, the Civil War, and postwar reconciliation.

The book opens with a section of four essays on race in Appalachia. Readers quickly see Inscoe's skill in his first essay, which provides a broad portrait of the historiography of the region's experience with race. In successive topical essays he introduces readers to some important themes through his expert use of historical examples. In "Mountain Masters as Confederate Opportunists," he presents the accidental drowning of a slaveholder in Ashe County, North Carolina, and shows how the slave, who survived the ordeal, came to become the scapegoat for his master's death. Within days of the release of a news story explaining the tragedy, North Carolina slaveholders began crafting their own version of events, which protected the spirit of the institution by inferring that the slave had ran away and the master died while

connects. Such an approach should be commended in a discipline with far too many either poorly or wholly unorganized anthologies.

If there is a concern about the organization of the book, it may be with the lack of a stated context in each of the thematic sections. Although Inscoc opens the work with an introduction, this reviewer would like to have seen a brief contextual essay opening each of the essay sections. To have the author explain his intellectual journey from one idea or interest to the next could be very important in understanding the mentality with which he has approached his life's work.

Taken as a whole, John Inscoc's new volume is an important contribution to the study of 19th century Appalachian history. It will certainly become a staple of graduate seminars and should enjoy a wide readership among the burgeoning field of borderland Civil War studies. Collected between these covers are the ideas that he has put on paper throughout his career. They will continue to act as intellectual catalysts for each successive generation of Appalachian scholars.

Brian McKnight

Angelo State University

City of Intrigue, Nest of Revolution: A Documentary History of Key West in the Nineteenth Century. By Consuelo E. Stebbins. (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2007. Foreword, introduction, maps, illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. Pp. xi, 258. \$55 cloth.)

In *City of Intrigue, Nest of Revolution: A Documentary History of Key West in the Nineteenth Century*, Consuelo E. Stebbins does much to demonstrate the importance of Key West in American and Cuban history. Beginning with the Ten Years' War (1868-1878) and culminating in the Cuban war for independence from Spain (1895-1898), Key West was a haven for the political and economic organization of the Cuban insurgency. Included in this volume are the author's translations of official and secret correspondence from the Spanish consul stationed at Key West addressed to the Spanish minister in Madrid, the governor general of Cuba, and the Spanish ambassador in Washington, D.C. Stebbins discovered the documents at the Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores (MAE) in Madrid and from their archives examined a collection numbering more than 7,000 pages. Her careful translation of these documents

aware of the movements of many insurgent leaders and others they considered criminals. American officials in Key West, however, were unwilling to aid the Spanish in bringing Cubans suspected of smuggling arms, organizing expeditions, or accused of other crimes against Spain to trial for fear of alienating an important voting block in Monroe County. Indeed, the consul noted in 1884 that American officials would not pursue legal action against Cubans in Key West, especially in an election year, as "their votes will decide the elections" (101).

The organization problems of this volume should not obscure the great work Stebbins has done for future scholars of the Cuban insurgency. These documents demonstrate the anxiety and powerlessness of the Spanish consul in Key West during the years leading up to the Cuban war for independence. The correspondence of the consul exposes the extensive network of support developed by Cubans off the island towards the goal of liberating their country from colonial rule. Scholars of Cuba have recognized the importance of the cigar industry in infusing the working classes with revolutionary ideas. *City of Intrigue, Nest of Revolution*, helps to bring the role of Cubans in Florida more firmly into the discussion of the struggle for independence. These sources constitute an important source on Cuba's transnational history with Florida; a relationship that remains as central to the identity of many Cuban-Americans in the twenty first century as it was for Cuban residents of Key West in the nineteenth century.

Jonathan Grandage

Florida State University

Fruits and Plains: The Horticultural Transformation of America. By Philip J. Pauly. (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2008. Introduction, acknowledgments, illustrations, maps, notes, index. Pp. 336. \$39.95 cloth.)

This book is a provocative look at how horticultural matters have shaped our country's history. For the author, a historian of science, such activities "fundamentally altered not only the vegetation but also the economic activities, social relations and common experiences of Americans;" in short, they "shaped the identity of the United States" (1). This perspective may be new to those who equate horticulture more with gardening than with applied science. The author's view, however, is that from America's colonial

added). This was, Pauly suggests, a change in identity “to prepare students to win the competitions of the architect-dominated American Academy in Rome” (234-235). Instead, Olmsted, his contemporaries, and succeeding generations practiced a new profession (landscape architecture) that built on the plant orientation represented by Downing’s “landscape gardening” to include spatial manipulation achieved through natural and man-made elements. These professionals’ careers, as well as the works designed by their offices, involved multiple issues (including public health, social justice, recreation, transportation, and housing) and by looking only at the horticultural contributions of Olmsted and his contemporaries, Pauly sees the trees but not the forest.

Nevertheless, there is much to admire here, even if the author’s perspectives may occasionally differ from one’s own. Drawing from multiple periods and subject areas, Pauly fearlessly puts forth a complex, multi-disciplinary argument that is engaging and stimulating. This work is well worth reading, and one I will certainly return to for content and inspiration.

Lake Douglas

LSU Robert Reich School of Landscape Architecture

Tupperware Unsealed: Brownie Wise, Earl Tupper, and the Home Party Pioneers. By Bob Kealing. (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2008. Acknowledgments, notes, selected bibliography, index, photographs. Pp. ix, 250. \$28 cloth.)

In the past decades scholars have realized that the rise of Tupperware in post World War II American is an important business and cultural phenomena. Tupperware revolutionized food preservation and developed a new sales system bringing the products into millions of American homes and employing women in new and efficient ways. In 1999 Alison J. Clarke published *Tupperware: The Promise of Plastic and the 1950s America*. Her monograph is more academic and examines business, design and culture in historical academic context. While Clarke describes the relationship between Earl Tupper and Brownie Wise she also explores the esthetic of the new plastic icon and looks at the development of overseas markets. The entertaining and award winning PBS documentary, “Tupperware!” by film maker Laurie Kahn-Leavitt used reflections of salespeople and distributors along with films of the early Tupperware. Kealing, an Emmy Award winning

more than necessary and while acknowledging her as a savvy businesswoman he claims she was willing to play an aging debutant, perhaps a clever phrase but it seems unnecessarily mean spirited if not sexist. (94) He misquotes Sherman as delivering Savannah to Lincoln as a birthday gift and not as a Christmas gift. Nevertheless, *Tupperware Unsealed* will appeal to the general public as well as specialists. Historians will find it a useful narrative that explains the development of Florida's convention and tourism industries. Teachers and professors will appreciate *Tupperware Unsealed* for its additions to women's history, changes in post World War II culture, and the development of modern home based sales. Besides that, it is a fun read.

Minoa D. Uffelman

Austin Peay State University

A Most Disorderly Court: Scandal and Reform in the Florida Judiciary.

By Martin A. Dyckman. (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2008. Foreword, chronology, preface and acknowledgments, notes, bibliography, index. Pp. 204. \$29.95 cloth.)

Florida's history is rife with political scandals and intrigue, but few people today remember the darkest period of the state's judicial system. In the 1970s, numerous ethics violations, whispers of criminal activity, and a lobbying incident almost permanently destroyed the integrity of the Florida Supreme Court. Martin Dyckman recounts this series of events in *A Most Disorderly Court: Scandal and Reform in the Florida Judiciary*, more than thirty years after the public exposure of the improprieties that signaled the end of the "good old boy" era of the court and inspired reforms in the state's appellate court system.

Dyckman has unique insight into this part of Florida history that was, and still is, overshadowed by Watergate and its demoralizing effect on the country. In 1973, he was a newspaper reporter for the *St. Petersburg Times* when an anonymous source gave him a copy of an internal memorandum between two Florida Supreme Court justices, Hal Dekle and David McCain. The memo was evidence that an attorney representing a company with interest in a pending public utilities tax case had given two justices, Dekle and Joseph Boyd, a document intended to sway the court's decision in favor of the state's utilities. Such lobbying violated Florida Bar rules and the state's Code of Judicial Conduct, and prompted an

Petersburg Times articles and interviews with twenty-eight people involved in the events form the foundation of the book. A four-page timeline and “cast of characters” at the front of the book is valuable and complements the chronological structure of the book. Overall, *A Most Disorderly Court* is a sound piece of investigative journalism and history for all readers and researchers of Florida law and politics.

Despite complaints about the news media, their role as a watchdog has acted as an important counterbalance against the abuses of power within state and federal governments. Had a confidential source not leaked that internal memorandum to Dyckman, Askew would not have been able to reshape the court so quickly, or possibly at all, with his merit-based selection process. Equally important, Dyckman’s final chapter alerts readers to recent changes in the selection process of Florida Supreme Court nomination commission members, and a U.S. Supreme Court decision, that today threaten the nonpartisan composition of the state’s judicial branch. The lesson: the work of government watchdog is never done.

Russell Moore

University of Central Florida

Havana Before Castro: When Cuba Was a Tropical Playground. By Peter Moruzzi (Layton, Utah: Gibbs Smith, 2008. Preface, acknowledgments, prologue, introduction, photographs, illustrations, architectural drawings, maps, bibliography, index. Pp. 256. \$30.00 paper.)

Mention the word Havana to Americans who visited the Cuban capital before Castro’s communist revolution, and their first recollection is that of a splendid tropical paradise with luxurious hotels, glittering nightclubs where everyone drank *mojitos*, *daiquiris* and *Cuba libres* while watching sensuous rumba dancers, and gambling at glitzy casinos with cigar-chomping mobsters surrounding the roulette and dice tables.

In this splendid and magnificently written book, Peter Moruzzi, architect historian and specialist on Modern architecture and design, recaptures Havana’s glamour as a city which was a magnet for American tourists from the post World War I years until 1958.

The sixteen chapters in this book are supported by over 500 color and black and white photographs along with an array of trav-

Modern and Late Modern architecture and their influence on Havana Modernism, an architectural design developed by Cuban architects trained in the United States. The author's clear and concise explanations help the reader understand the commonalities and differences among modern architectural styles. Furthermore, he attributes the rise of Havana Modernism to Cuba's pre-1959 robust economy and the growth of its middle and upper classes. It is interesting to observe that among the author's personal favorite Havana Modern buildings and residences only one was built after Castro's revolution. Unfortunately, today, Havana Modern buildings, like many other buildings are crumbling, victims of time, Cuba's economic woes and communist incompetence and neglect.

Some critics will argue that the book is lacking in notes, but the powerful visual images in every page are worth a thousand notes and the book's bibliography provides a wealth of English and Spanish sources. This is a solid, must read book for those interested in Cuban history, architecture and popular culture, as well as for the general reader.

Jose B. Fernandez

University of Central Florida

Overhead the Sun. By John Ashworth. (Cocoa, Fla.: Chapin House Books, Florida Historical Society Press, 2008. Pp.383. \$21.95 paper.)

Florida's unique place in southern and American history has made it an irresistible target for all kinds of writers, both native sons and daughters and non-Floridians. This group includes John Ashworth, a talented northerner who lived in and conducted his research while working in Florida during the 1950s. Harvard educated, Ashworth wrote short stories (one won an O. Henry prize that was made into a Hollywood film), was a foreign news analyst during World War II for the Office of War Information, a foreign correspondent, and a newspaper and national magazine writer. He taught creative writing at Columbia University for twenty years. Ashworth died in 1993 shortly after completing his novel on Florida.

This engrossing and fascinating historical novel centers on the 1890s when the state was emerging from the aftermath of the Civil War, Reconstruction, and the poor economic decades that fol-

lowed. It was just beginning to shed its position as a frontier region, and to yield the possibilities of huge financial returns to exploiters, both home grown and imported. The author uses his literary license to leap backwards and forward in chronological time to create settings for illustrative effect, but never to the point of straining historical credulity.

For instance, he uses the notorious Rosewood story that involved a racial incident in 1924 resulting in the deaths of innocent citizens and the burning and destruction of Rosewood, an all Negro town in Levy County. The Rosewood racial tragedy had its origins in an incident based on false sexual allegations that a black man had sexually attacked a white woman. In 1994 survivors and descendants of the Rosewood tragedy sued the state of Florida in a widely publicized case and won. The author shifts the time frame to the 1890s, and uses as his example the attempt by a ruthless railroad builder to overcome the legitimate refusal of African-American residents in a fictional and small West Central Florida town to sell their land to his company. Scattered throughout book are other developments that occurred both before and after the 1890s, but are generally accurate about the decade itself.

In the space allowed for this review only the basic outlines of plot (which are complicated and are carried out by an amazing cast of African Americans and whites and can only be summarized briefly). The major players are the ruthless and old Northern railroad owner, Arthur Wilkins, and his beautiful and equally ruthless and sexually promiscuous young wife, Laura; native southerners Tom Clayton, an ambitious and equally immoral man who is Wilkins's young construction engineer and Julia Richmond Clayton, his wife, a kind and sensitive native of Florida; Tom and Julia, the book's heroine, have two children, a girl and a boy. Tom Clayton has a sister, Esther Clayton Rourke, an invalid who married Joseph Rourke and who is best friends with Laura; and, finally, Thorstein Brach, a native of Norway and a highly intelligent but unorthodox economist. The book centers around Tom Clayton who becomes the lover of Laura Wilkins and Julie Clayton who becomes Thorstein Brach's lover. There are a number of others, both blacks and whites, who play key roles in the course of events.

After the fictional black town of Myrtle is destroyed, and Wilkins gets his railroad, Tom breaks with him and moves to south Florida and establishes a sugar manufacturing company. Refugees from Myrtle move to south Florida where they reestablish them-

selves near the Clayton sugar company. Tom's success causes the jealous Wilkins to cause his arrest and imprisonment, and he persuades his former wife to take over his business temporarily. She does so, and then resolution.

As the narrative unfolds, the author presents the reader with fascinating depictions of Florida. He describes its geography in almost poetic detail. The state's rivers, its heat, its magnolias, various forests of oak, cypress, and many stands of other hardwoods are noted; pines (loblolly shortleaf and beautiful longleaf were ubiquitous) all receive his attention. The state's rich assortment of animals are part and parcel of the Florida scene. The mix of people who made up the population-whites, blacks, Indians, including aristocrats and crackers, are clearly rendered and add color and authenticity. In sum, the book is a valuable history lesson and a fine contribution to the panorama of Florida.

William Warren Rogers

Tallahassee, Florida

el brochures, tourism posters, nightclub programs, postcards, illustrations, maps and even brothel advertising cards. These images – most of them provided from the author's private collection – add spice to Moruzzi's fluid and concise style.

The first two chapters provide invaluable information concerning Cuba's Spanish colonial period and the first eighteen years of the Cuban republic (1902-1920). Through the narrative and accompanying images, the reader is able to appreciate Havana's colonial wealth along with its strategic importance to the Spanish empire.

The remaining chapters form the book's core, as they concentrate on Havana and its relationship with American tourists. The author contends that it was not until the post World War I years that Americans discovered Cuba as a tropical playground with Havana playing the center stage. Backed by solid historical information from both Cuban and American sources, Moruzzi explains that the discovery was the product of Cuba's nascent tourism industry, the economic affluence of the Roaring Twenties and American Prohibition. For wealthy Americans, Havana, like Miami, became a vacation paradise with plenty of sun, surf, sand, tennis, golf, country clubs, and horse tracks. However, Havana had more to offer than Miami with rumba, roulette, and above all, rum. As a result of this discovery, Cuba experienced its first hotel building boom in the 1920s, culminating with the opening of the 500 room Hotel Nacional in 1930. Overlooking the sea, and combining Moorish, Classical and Art Deco architectural styles, "El Nacional," became the flagship of the Cuban tourist industry as Moruzzi's photo collection proves.

Havana's playground image for wealthy Americans experienced a fifteen-year lull as a result of the Great Depression, the repeal of Prohibition and World War II. However, the war years brought prosperity to Cuba and they coincided with the island's brief democratic interlude (1940-1952). In his chapter on Cuban politics, Moruzzi notes the island's democratic progress, but he does not evade the issue of graft and corruption and some venerable Cuban democratic political figures do not escape his "tell it like it is" criticism.

Once World War II ended, Havana experienced a spectacular comeback as a result of mass tourism. According to the author, inexpensive air and ferry transportation largely accounted for this phenomenon. For the rich and famous, Havana kept offering the

same amenities and it was less expensive than Miami or Las Vegas. For the less affluent, there was sun, fun and watering holes such as the Floridita, the Bodeguita del Medio and Sloppy Joe's. They could also watch the extravagant shows at nightclubs such as the Tropicana, Montmatre and Sans Souci.

According to the author, tourism marketing became the order of the day in Cuba and resulted in alliances between hotels, nightclubs and airlines. Humorously, Moruzzi indicates that in 1956, for \$68.60, the average American could book a round trip flight from Miami to Havana on Cubana Airlines which included the Tropicana show, an overnight hotel stay and breakfast. Additionally, the trip included live music on board the plane, performed by Tropicana musicians and a conga line led by Ana Gloria and Rolando, Tropicana's top dance duo!

Fulgencio Batista's 1952 *coup* brought an end to Cuban democracy but it had a positive effect on tourism, as Batista looked upon the tourist industry as a fiefdom to enrich himself and his cronies. In one of the chapters, Moruzzi painstakingly dissects Batista's connections with Florida mobsters Santo Trafficante and Meyer Lansky. Explaining their symbiotic relationship, Moruzzi argues it was the product of Batista's 1955 Hotel Law 2074 which offered tax incentives and casino licenses to any new hotel with more than \$1,000,000 of new investment. The mobsters, clandestinely in return, offered the construction contracts to Batista and his ravenous entourage.

Hotel Law 2074 resulted in another major building hotel boom with Trafficante's nineteen-story Hotel Capri (1956), Lansky's twenty-one story Havana Riviera (1957), and the thirty-story Habana Hilton (1958), which remained under the Cuban Caterer's Union ownership but with close ties to Batista. The numerous photos of these hotels included in the book depict their luxury and opulence.

Although the author acknowledges Batista's quest for Havana to become the Monte Carlo of Latin America, he blames the unscrupulous dictator for crushing Cuban democracy and propelling Castro's revolution which ultimately ended Havana as an American tropical playground.

No book by an architect historian would be complete without a chapter on Cuban modernist architecture and Moruzzi devotes a chapter to this subject. Using numerous photographs to illustrate, he provides interesting descriptions of Art Deco, Streamline

investigation by the state's Judicial Qualifications Commission (JQC). Meanwhile, the JQC was already investigating Dekle for allegedly attempting to influence a campaign supporter's case in a lower court and was made aware of several concerns surrounding McCain, including accusations that he favored campaign supporters and their clients while seated as a district court appellate judge.

Over the next two years, tense moments ensued that pitted reform-minded Governor Reubin Askew and the JQC against a court that had been consolidating its power and expanding its jurisdiction since the late 1950s. In the most trying episode between the two branches, the court ruled in 1974 that the JQC was powerless to probe allegations of judicial wrongdoing that occurred more than two years before Florida's 1973 constitutional reorganization of the court system. Further, it narrowed the reach of JQC investigations to matters related only to a judge's current office term. Dyckman writes that, "There was enough whitewash in that decision to have repainted the entire Supreme Court building" (p. 64). To offset this move, the legislature and state voters passed a constitutional amendment which expanded JQC investigative powers. Amidst this issue and other court rulings that resembled power plays more than sound judicial decisions, 1974 marked the low point for the state's highest court but was also the beginning of the end for the justices who had abused their positions. The JQC pushed ahead with its investigations of the public utilities memo and other allegations of misconduct leveled at Justices Boyd, Dekle, and McCain. Within a year, Boyd narrowly avoided impeachment but was reprimanded. Impeachment proceedings began against Dekle and McCain, prompting their resignations. In a move that marked the significant transformation of the court and state politics, Askew appointed Joseph W. Hatchett, Florida's first African American justice, to McCain's former seat. With the "good old boys" gone, the court could finally restore its integrity.

While there are articles on the merit-based selection of judges and judicial conduct in state legal journals, *A Most Disorderly Court* is the first account of the Florida Supreme Court scandals of the 1970s and the fallout. Recounting the complicated web of events and people that comprise this story is no easy task, but Dyckman does an excellent job of establishing historical background while describing complicated legal and legislative issues for a wider audience than just those who work in academia. Dyckman's *St.*

journalist, makes the tumultuous Tupper-Wise relationship the focus of *Tupperware Unsealed*.

Kealing begins his book with Tupper disclosing to his shocked executives that he is going fire the unsuspecting Brownie Wise, who had become the public face of Tupperware. Tupper and Wise seemed to be the perfect partnership by combining their vastly different talents and creating a perfect blend of product and marketing. In the subsequent chapters the author describes the early lives of the two protagonists and describes how they came to this dramatic final confrontation made all the more shocking because Tupperware was at the pinnacle of its success. By alternating their life stories the narrative builds a suspense that lends extra drama to the explosive denouement.

Tupper was a failed inventor determined to become rich. Through exhaustive experimentation he took a smelting waste product and created polyethylene which was odorless, flexible and unbreakable and could be molded and dyed various colors. Tupper got the idea for his unique seal from paint can lids. Once this unique product was produced it languished on department store shelves because no one knew how it preserved food or how to use it. Tupper did not know how to market his product but he was soon to meet a marketing genius.

In the late 1940s Wise was a divorced mother raising a son on her own. To supplement her secretarial salary she started selling Stanley products which used demonstrations as a marketing tool. She recognized the potential of the new plastic containers and switched companies but continued demonstrations. Tupper eventually made Wise the head of Tupper Home Party and she set about using her organizational and motivational skills to explode sales of Tupperware.

Tupperware Unsealed gives a detailed account of the expansion of the company including territory disputes, distribution problems and debate about where to build the headquarters. Wise saw Florida as the perfect place for Tupperware to attract agents to attend conferences. She anticipated the burgeoning tourist industry, and indeed, the phenomenal growth of Tupperware parallels expanding Florida tourism. The book also explores Wise's effort to remove Tupperware from stores and sell exclusively at home parties.

Kealing calls the women who sold the plastic products "Home Party Pioneers." He is at his best when describing this revolution-

ary concept of using female agents and tapping into traditional female networks. The agents combined socializing with selling a truly new and effective product that allowed women to stretch their food budgets by preserving food longer and storing leftovers efficiently. The system allowed agents to earn income, attendees to shop in a non pressure environment and socialize all the while developing a new concept of modern domesticity. This form of employment did not challenge traditional family structure and women maintained the dual role of homemaker and career woman.

Tupperware was one of the first companies to hold its annual conventions, called jubilees, in Florida at its plush headquarters. Wise instinctually understood the Hobsbawmian concept of an imagined community and invention of tradition. The jubilees were extravaganzas with elaborate themes, rituals and expensive prizes. Agents took classes and, upon completion of coursework, celebrated with a candlelight graduation ceremony. For many this was an important and emotional accomplishment of which they were proud. The explosive growth and immense profits elevated Wise to national prominence and an appearance as the first woman on the cover of *Business Week*. Increasingly, Tupper grew upset that Wise was the star and not the product and after a series of escalating conflicts reached the conclusion that Wise must go.

After Wise's firing the corporation tried to practice a modern *damnatio memoriae* by removing her name and image from the corporate headquarters and publications. Brownie was beloved by her sales force and they were bewildered by her disappearance. She tried to recreate the marketing magic she had so successfully established for Tupper working for a cosmetics company. Despite her popularity she failed to lure Tupperware sale people to sell make-up. The plastic product proved superior and in the end, despite the emotional bounds, the bottom line was the bottom line.

Kealing's sources include; newspaper accounts, professional correspondence, personal papers, court records and interviews. In particular Wise's son Jerry provides valuable insights into both the early days of Tupperware and the decades after she was severed from the company. There is a slim selected bibliography of secondary sources none of which are scholarly articles. The prose is more casual than historians use, with frequent use of slang. There are a few small quibbles, Kealing calls Wise "ahead of her times"

period onward, horticulture was the equivalent of today's plant biotechnology, and horticulturists, many of whom were leading politicians, scientists, and intellectuals, were concerned more with "quality, productivity, and diversity" (2) than ornamental applications.

Pauly organizes American horticulture into four aspects that sometimes worked at crossed purposes: finding and bringing in new species to America from elsewhere; naturalizing foreign plants and getting them to live in American conditions; identifying the potential of native plants; and elimination of undesirable plants and plants pests through extermination or suppression. With this background, he identifies nine "ideas, problems, and places that were strategic or representative" (5) to demonstrate, in chapter format, the historical significance of American horticulturists. He begins with an examination of the "first generation of self-consciously 'American' naturalists" (5) in the mid 18th century and ends by discussing horticultural attitudes of the last seventy-five years. Chapters in between examine the alien Hessian fly in the 1780s; antebellum horticulture (primarily fruit production) in New England; and arboriculture in mid-Western prairies. Then come discussions of governmental programs and bureaucracies created to introduce and control plants at the turn of the twentieth century; efforts to control migration and movement of pests; and landscape gardening. These are followed by a chapter on Florida horticulture and why it "recapitulated, with greater intensity and concentration, the tensions among desires for the exotic, enthusiasm for the native, and fears of the alien" (195-196). Finally the author discusses the decline of horticulture as a national agenda, closing with a chapter discussing earlier horticulturists' conceptions of culture: "high ... and low ..., purity and hybridity, the native and the cosmopolitan, and the difficulties of achieving consensus about taste" and how approaching these actors through these perspectives, "opens a new strategic salient for understanding change" (264).

By covering multiple topics, locations, and people, this book should have wide appeal. Obviously any such diverse selection of subjects is informed by the author's individual research interests and academic perspective, and its success depends on the effectiveness with which the case is argued. Pauly brings analytical skills and critical insights to his investigation, and there is much to savor here in the trajectory of his thesis. With elegance, dexterity,

and conviction, he weaves seemingly diverse threads to form whole cloth in ways that are logical, challenging, and inspiring.

By drawing from multiple fields, Pauly's nuanced argument also plows new ground, but he does not claim that his investigation is comprehensive. In fact, he notes "how much remains to be learned about this undervalued and understudied area" (5). Some readers may find topics the author overlooked or conclusions to question, and I found several: agricultural literature and land grant colleges, mentioned in passing, could have bolstered and expanded the author's argument; and the author's chapter on American landscape history would have benefited from a broader and deeper understanding of standard literature.

Nineteenth-century agricultural journalism played a significant role in spreading horticultural information, encouraging commerce, and building a national agenda for plant sciences, and public land-grant institutions (created by the Morrell Act of 1862) had, arguably, advanced agricultural education and practices by the end of the nineteenth-century more than any other initiative. The author's chapter on landscape history proposes to "convey the breadth of horticulturists' activities and their struggles to come to grips with landscape, with nationality, and with species having agendas of their own" (5), and a discussion of Andrew Jackson Downing and Frederick Law Olmsted follows. In the early twentieth century, the author claims, "landscape gardeners ... ran from it [alliances with horticulturists] by repositioning themselves as architects" (232) and that "[L]andscape professionals underwent the most dramatic shift, abandoning their identification with horticulture" (234). These oversimplifications suggest a superficial understanding of the origins, evolution, and content of the profession of landscape architecture. Also, the author claims that both Downing and Olmsted called themselves "landscape gardeners" (234). This is accurate in the case of Downing, but Olmsted, the "Father of Landscape Architecture in America," is credited with coining the term 'landscape architect' with his and Calvert Vaux's "Greensward" proposal (1857), and he used the term professionally from then on. Further, the author claims the focus of landscape professions had shifted by the beginning of the twentieth century from an interest in plants to a focus on design, reinforced when Olmsted's son, FLO Jr., following in the professional footsteps of his father, set up the graduate program at Harvard in "*landscape architecture*, not *landscape gardening*" (234; emphasis

provide valuable insight into Spanish knowledge of insurgent activity in Key West and elsewhere in the United States, the position of the U.S. regarding the tactics of the insurgents, and the inability of the consul to quell anti-Spanish violence and anti-colonial ideologies amongst the Cuban population, especially those associated with the cigar industry, in Florida's southernmost city.

The book is divided into eighteen thematic chapters supported by documents dating from 1842 to 1898. Chapters one through five deal mostly with how the geography of Key West was both a strategic asset to the United States and provided locals with copious income from salvaging shipwrecks. Chapters six through eighteen turn to issues more directly related to the growth of the Cuban insurgency in Key West. In particular, the documents point to how the politics of labor in the cigar industry lent support to the cause of the insurgents operating primarily out of Key West, and following a devastating fire in 1886, Tampa's Ybor City.

Despite the book's contribution to a little known period in the history of Key West and the Cuban insurgent community in Florida, the work suffers from some organization problems. The book contains only a short introduction and has no conclusion. Historical information within the chapters consist only of short summaries. Stebbins appears to have intended the documents to speak for themselves. By engaging the existing literature, the author could have flushed out the significance of the source material in a more convincing fashion. Further problems occur due to the selection of the sources; the author does not include precise information as to why certain excerpts were chosen over others. Explaining her methodology of choosing documents, she simply states that materials were included "based on their historical significance" (xiii). Unfortunately, without analysis this significance is lost.

Organizational problems aside, Stebbins provides scholars of *Cuba libre* with a perspective on the insurgency in the words of Spanish agents of the colonial government determined to end separatist movements on and off the island. One issue of continuity that emerges from the documents was the failure of Spanish authorities to control the spread of revolutionary ideas amongst Cubans in Florida during the second half of the nineteenth century. A persistent obstacle for the consul was the incapacity to discourage insurgent fund raising activities in Tampa, Key West, Jacksonville, and New York. The consul appears to have been well

in pursuit. This chapter, which was first published in 1995, helped lay the foundation for reexaminations of slavery in Appalachia.

Another compelling topic included in the volume is that of familial division during the Civil War. Perhaps the most recognized of borderland Civil War characteristics, the concept of ideologically splintered families played a major role in how the War was viewed in these contested regions. However, as Inscoe ably illustrates, ideology was not always the most important factor. When sons in both blue and gray found themselves visiting home during the war, talk grew heated in the front yard and it appeared that the young men would fight each other, until their mother stepped outside, ordered them to drop their arms, and come to dinner. They reluctantly complied. This story and others speak to the importance of non-patriotic and non-nationalistic motives in the minds of many participants, particularly in the Appalachian region.

One of the most interesting elements of the borderland Civil War is the important roles that women played in their communities. Left unprotected by their husbands, fathers, and adult sons, they bore the full responsibilities of their independence. Mary Bell, in addition to worry about her husband's behavior while away from home, also shouldered the burdens of ordering the household and the world around her. She hired farmhands, supervised their labor, and, although she consulted with her husband, began converting some of their money into land in an effort to protect the family against economic tumult. Inscoe identifies Bell's self-absorption as a point of departure from the typical southern woman who initially supported the war but later lamented its impact. Bell hated it from its first days and likely resented her husband's decision to abandon his familial and community responsibilities in preference for such a useless undertaking. As the war proceeded and her husband remained away from home, Mary grew into her role as head of household and business manager. By the end of the article, one must wonder if Mary Bell viewed her husband's return at the end of the war with excitement, relief, or dread.

By their very nature, anthologies are problematic, however, this one presents much to be appreciated. Although Inscoe's articles do not segue from one to the next, his compartmentalization of the entire book under the headings Race, War, and Remembrance, helps to organize the autonomous chapters in a way that distracts the reader's attention away from the obvious dis-