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Book Reviews

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BOOK REVIEWS

The New History of Florida. Edited by Michael Gannon. (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 1996. xvi, 480 pp. Introduction, illustrations, maps, bibliography, index. \$34.95 hardcover.)

The 1971 publication of Charlton W. Tebeau's *A History of Florida* was a landmark in the writing of Florida history. This comprehensive, scholarly account of the state's past represented a major advance beyond the sundry histories preceding it. Densely worded, packed with facts, Tebeau's work embodied the prodigious labor of a single man endeavoring to bring together the published material on Florida's past. The resulting book has been the standard history of the state for the past quarter century.

The standard text for the next quarter century is *The New History of Florida*.

This history is the collaborative effort of 22 scholars, each of whom contributed a chapter to the book. Many of the contributors, including editor Michael Gannon, are veteran researchers whose names can be found in the bibliography of Tebeau's book. Some are new lights who have come onto the field in recent years. Each of these specialists has added his or her knowledge and interpretations to the joint endeavor.

The result is excellent. This new history benefits from the 25 additional years of research published since 1971, but it is more than just an updating of the Florida story. There is greater emphasis on social history and on the various authors' assessments and reflections on the past. The result is a book that, even at 480 pages, is slightly less voluminous than Tebeau's history, but is much more readable.

The Spanish colonial period— the longest epoch in Florida's chronology— receives more emphasis in this book. Indians, blacks, and other distinct groups of Floridians are given greater attention, even whole chapters. Modern issues such as overpopulation and environmental degradation are added to the mix of concerns in the book's latter chapters.

The choice of an exotic Florida swamp scene for the dust jacket is provocative, considering that Florida is one of the most highly urbanized states in the union. Also, in this day when most textbooks feature glossy pages full of color illustrations, one wishes

for more from the book's presentation. The cover is dull green, the pages are musty-white, and the black-and-white illustrations are often murky.

However, the written words are marvelous. This book will become the textbook for every college Florida History class, but it also merits a wide readership among the general population of the state.

Flagler College

THOMAS GRAHAM

Pioneer Family: Life on Florida's Twentieth-Century Frontier. By Michel Oesterreicher. (Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 1996. 175 pp. Foreword by Daniel L. Schafer. Acknowledgments. \$24.95 paper.)

Hugie Oesterreicher was born in 1898 in a cypress log cabin near the Old King's Road on the edge of the Durban Swamp. Hugie's homestead lay in the middle of a vast frontier 10 miles from both Jacksonville to the north and St. Augustine to the south. This was a world of majestic live oaks and cypress, cabbage palms, palmettos, and wild blackberries. Along the ridges were scrawny blackjack oaks, gigantic rattlesnakes, wild hogs, range cattle, bears, and deer. *Pioneer Family* is a powerful story of success, failure, life, sickness and death— but most of all the hardships of carving a living from the north Florida frontier. Today this vanished world is replaced by the urban sprawl of greater Jacksonville— a place of shopping centers, golf courses, housing developments, strip malls, and condominiums on the Intracoastal Waterway.

Through a series of oral interviews with her mother and father, Michel Oesterreicher elegantly crafts together thirty short chapters which bring to life her parent's childhood and adult experiences. "All of the interviews in this book," writes the author, "are based on actual events discussed in those interviews. At no time did I introduce emotions or responses to these events other than the ones Hugie and Oleta said they had. At all times, I strove for an honest, clear narrative, true to my parents and free from my own sentiments" (xi).

Hugie Oesterreicher grew to maturity digging sweet potatoes, penning cattle, planting spring crops, and chasing birds with his sling-shot. In the winter Hugie and his family earned extra money cutting palms which were shipped to northern churches for Palm

Sunday. Learning from his father and older brothers, the growing boy became a woodsman. He hunted in the Durban Swamp, shooting hogs, alligators, and snakes but sometimes selling them alive to stockyards or zoos. Then one day on a cattle drive near a dairy farm, the young man found a tall brown-eyed girl named Oleta Brown. She was the prettiest thing he had ever seen. It took a lot of persuading, but Oleta finally consented to leave her family's dairy farm and join Hugie in the swamp.

Not long after the couple married, the Depression hit with a vengeance. The banks failed and they lost their savings. Hugie trapped animals, cut cross ties, and worked odd jobs: a six-and-a-half foot rattlesnake skin paid for Oleta's trip to the doctor; the twenty dollars from an otter pelt provided the family with a whole month's worth of groceries; four jugs of moonshine paid the doctor for delivering a baby.

One can not read these stories without thinking of Marjorie Kinnan Rawling's *Cross Creek*. Indeed, these stories are just as compelling. There are even Faulknerian qualities to some of the characters, particularly Oleta's mother whose life of hard work and toil found little reward from her uncaring husband. Annie Sadler Brown lived a life of many hardships. When her husband died, leaving her alone with two daughters on their farm, she resumed her daily labors with a pistol strapped over her blue apron. Oleta would never forget that image of her mother, nor would she ever forget the night when— after a hard day's work— she unstrapped her pistol, exchanged her apron for a dress, combed her hair, and accompanied her young daughters to a dance.

The University of Alabama Press has produced yet another excellent book on Florida. Gracefully written, it offers one of the most compelling images of rural life in early 20th-century Florida that exists in print. It should enjoy wide readership.

Florida Southern College

JAMES M. DENHAM

Hugh Robinson: Pioneer Aviator. By George L. Vergara. (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 1995. xii, 136 pp. Preface, introduction, photographs, index. \$32.95 cloth.)

In his brief career biography of Hugh Robinson, George L. Vergara takes the reader on a flight of fancy through the daredevil

years of America's early "aeronauts." The author— a practicing cardiologist and an aviation buff— found himself assuming the roles of archivist and historian after his friend, Hugh Robinson, Jr., gave him a tattered box filled with family scrapbooks, pristine photographs, and well-preserved newspaper clippings. This collection revealed that Robinson's father, Hugh Robinson, Sr., resided in a league of aviation pioneers that included Wilbur Wright, Glenn Curtiss, and Tony Jannus. Soon after the younger Robinson passed away, Vergara attempted to reconstruct the senior Robinson's life.

Hugh Robinson (1881-1963) exuded a curious, venturesome spirit. As a child, he read science fiction and tinkered with contraptions. After devising a "Circle of Death" circus performance and establishing a bicycle shop in his native Neosho, Missouri, Robinson moved to St. Louis and became obsessed with the feats of early aviators. Robinson witnessed a flight by Wilbur Wright during a visit to France, and returned from his trip with a desire to construct his own air machine and a plan to see the United States assume a leading role in the development of the aviation industry. He met Glenn Curtiss while flying at the St. Louis Centennial Exposition in 1909 and soon thereafter launched a career of aeronautical innovations. His creative labors contributed to the development of hydroplanes, military pilot education, and airplane landings on naval vessels.

This book recounts the many dangers that pioneer aviators encountered. Pilots assembled, tested, and modified gossamer flying machines built from wood, bamboo, and piano wire. Aviators followed a circuit of air shows that resembled spectator sporting events with a carnival atmosphere. For example, as a member of the Curtiss Air Exhibition Team, Robinson lived the itinerant life of an acrobatic performer who traveled by train to destinations near and far. Before each air show, Robinson and his mechanics assembled the aeroplane from pieces packed in shipping crates. Although they received generous fees to perform daredevil acts, aviators who postponed flights due to inclement weather often faced hostile audiences. After each stunt show— assuming that the plane had not crashed— Robinson and his colleagues disassembled their flying machines and prepared for the next locale.

Vergara offers a detailed account of Robinson's aviation exploits and a brief assessment of his later contributions to Florida history. Seven of the book's eleven chapters cover the brief period (1910-1912) when Robinson truly ranked among the greatest of aviators. While Robinson did not join Tom Benoist and Tony Jan-

nus when they established the St. Petersburg-Tampa Airboat Line, he later moved to Florida and invested in the land boom. Along with Curtiss, he became a pioneer developer and civic leader in Opa-Locka. He also lived in Coral Gables, Miami, and Deland before moving to Maryland in 1945.

Through his biography of Hugh Robinson, Vergara has recaptured the pioneer spirit of early American aviation. The marvelous photographs and strong narrative return the reader to a period when aeronautic innovators both captivated audiences and turned their unique inventions into machines that redefined temporal and spatial distances. However, while the author bases much of his account on personal family materials, a lack of standard citations makes it difficult to evaluate the sources used during his research. The author relies on a number of extensive quotations from newspaper articles and other sources, rather than paraphrasing these sources to fit into his text. Also, brief chapters (chapters one and ten have only four pages each, including photographs) and limited attention to Robinson's later years (Vergara covers the years 1917 to 1963 in thirteen pages) give the impression that the author does not want to venture far beyond the pilot's seat. For example, further discussion of Robinson's consulting and engineering efforts during World War II might reveal that his contributions to the industry continued long after his daredevil days. Despite these criticisms, Vergara deserves praise for his portrait of Robinson's high-flying career.

USF, St. Petersburg

JAMES A. SCHNUR

Havana USA: Cuban Exiles and Cuban Americans in South Florida, 1959-1994. By Maria Cristina Garcia. (Berkeley, Los Angeles, London: University of California Press, 1996. xiii, 290 pp. Preface, introduction, notes, bibliography, index. \$35.00).

To this reviewer the Garcia book is an excellent and most welcome study and an important addition to recent Florida history. The text is clear, most readable, and devoid of jargon. This is a serious book based on solid documentation with a thorough bibliography and measured notes. The author, a Cuban-American and professor of history at Texas A&M, is unbiased and fair. The original research and composition was a Ph.D. dissertation completed at the University of Texas, well known for its Latin American pro-

gram and library resources. Certainly the published, updated version lacks the usual shortcomings of a dissertation.

Florida and Cuba have been linked historically since the early 16th century. It is a love, rivalry and sometimes hate relationship. Since the Castro revolution nearly four decades ago over one million Cubans have left and more than half of these settled in Florida—mainly in South Florida. This is a monumental event in Florida's history. Dr. Garcia in 290 pages gives us this recent chapter of Florida history.

The book is divided into two parts: "The Emigration" and "The Emigrés." Part One examines the historical aspects of migration. The arrival of Cubans, beginning in 1959, continued in defined waves up to the Mariel exodus in 1980. This last wave, which occurred during the Carter Administration, is one of the most unique episodes in U.S. immigration history. It is well covered in a long chapter. The more than 100,000 Marielitos were different from the previous emigrants. We are reminded that only 4% were true felons. They were products of the Revolution and of lower economic status in contrast to previous Cuban emigrants from the Castro dictatorship. The Marielitos "became one of the most stigmatized immigrant groups in American history." But "they demonstrated patterns of adaption similar to those of the Cubans who arrived earlier" (6). These earlier waves are sketched in a previous chapter.

Part II, "The Emigrés," deals with what the author calls "conceptual issues," for instance the difficulty of assimilating into and actively participating in American society while still maintaining a Cuban national identity. The chapter entitled "The Evolution of Cuban Exile Politics" is certainly well presented. It gives us a clear account of the complexity and divisiveness of the Cuban exile community and its total inability to form a united front against Castro. While some of us recall the names of emigré leaders from the early decades, most of them have faded from our memory. In this chapter the reader is reminded of them, their struggle and some of their quixotic activities to overthrow Castro from Florida. The U.S. government, Democrats and Republicans alike, were frustrated in trying to unite the Cuban exile leadership. The chapter "Exile Politics" is worthy of attention. Maybe the infamous "Bay of Pigs" invasion of 1961 needed to be presented in a separate chapter rather than discussed in fragments in various parts of the book.

"Cuban Writers and Scholars in Exile" is also a commendable chapter and probably the one that a reader can learn the most

from. The political doings and the historical events are better known than the intellectual endeavors, at least to the average reader and observer of the Cuban problem. We are given many names, titles, and publications. Their influence in Cuban affairs is pivotal. There has been much “creativity” and it has “produced a rich body of work.” Yet from this large “body” there has not emerged a universally acknowledged figure such as Isabela Allende (Chile), Garcia Marquez (Colombia— a Castro admirer), or Vargas Llosa (Peru). The exile writers and poets were too focused on the pro- and anti-Castro struggle. Author Garcia fails to analyze the Cuban intellectual elite community from a global point of view or even national (U.S.) point of view. Their fame is restricted.

The five pages of conclusions are clear and precise. The author sees a more recent liberal attitude among the Cuban exiles. Cubans in South Florida now have to share the spotlight with other Latin groups, such as the Nicaraguans and Colombians, and they have learned to be more tolerant with the Haitian emigres. Fortunately Garcia makes no predictions. Her fairness, scholarship and simple erudition ought to bring her positive reviews. The detailed footnotes at the end of the book occupy forty-five pages and there are twenty pages of bibliography. Use of the Cuban exile newspapers, bulletins, tabloids and magazines is extensive. There is a well done index.

University of South Florida

CHARLES W. ARNADE

The Search for Thomas F. Ward, Teacher of Frederick Delius. By Don C. Gillespie. (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 1996. xvi, 180 pp. Foreword by Eric Fenby, acknowledgments, introduction, illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$39.95 cloth.)

Don C. Gillespie has written a mystery-adventure story worthy of the best writers of that genre. The remarkable thing about his narrative is that it is not fantasy. Instead, it is the factual, documented history of a teacher/musician/priest who died 75 years before the author’s inquiry. It is doubtful that a biography of Thomas F. Ward would have been written if he had not been the first and only American teacher of Frederick Delius.

After showing little aptitude or interest in continuing his father’s wool trade business, the young Englishman Delius came to Florida in a half-hearted attempt to become an orange grower. The

turning point of his life came when after a chance meeting with Thomas Ward, he became a student of music theory under Ward's tutelage. The arrangement lasted six months or less and probably would not have warranted a footnote in music history if Frederick Delius had not later become a prominent composer. Delius had been an indifferent student at Bradford elementary school and declared his years at Leipzig Conservatory to be a waste of time. But of his Florida tutor, he said, "Ward's counterpoint lessons were the only lessons from which I ever derived any benefit." This line from this source is justification for a full-scale biography of Ward.

Ward was brought up in a Catholic orphanage in Brooklyn. He was organist and choirmaster at The Church of the Assumption. He studied with John M. Loretz, Jr., who was a nephew and student of Alexander Guilmant in Paris. When Ward was about 30 he moved to Jacksonville, hoping that the benign climate would bring remission or cure of his tuberculosis. He accepted a position as organist at the Church of Immaculate Conception in 1884 where Delius heard his "admirable performances of the great masters." Ward moved to Solano Grove, the site of Delius' orchard and home, for a short time. Then both men moved to Jacksonville where they sang and played, enlivening the social life of the city. With the departure of Delius from Florida in 1885, music historians end their stories of the Brooklyn organist. Over the years, many have speculated on Ward's destiny. Only Gillespie has doggedly pursued every lead in a lifetime of research to follow his subject through later years.

Ward moved to St. Augustine in 1887, probably to escape the danger of a yellow fever epidemic in Jacksonville. There he was organist at the Cathedral of the oldest Catholic diocese in the nation. In addition, he organized a sight singing class that was advertised in the *St. Johns County Weekly*, April 9 and 16, 1887. The Cathedral and a good part of the city were destroyed by fire on April 12. Ward left the ancient city before the Cathedral was restored.

He appeared in Orlando in 1891 as a bookkeeper for the *Orlando Record*, then moved to the priory and College of St. Leo, near Tampa. As a religious cleric in this Benedictine monastery, he took the name of Frater Paul and later, Frater Placidus. He was 35 years old.

Frater Placidus found life at St. Leo tedious. He was depressive and often left the monastery overnight without permission. He cited his own instances of being "headstrong, quarrelsome and of a faultfinding disposition." He disobeyed his prior and resumed his

secular habits. He wrote a letter asking to be released from his vows. The Benedictines never revealed the indiscretion or sin that caused them to expel him from their order. They wanted him excommunicated and removed from the state of Florida. They refused to respond to Ward's sister's urgent request for his address. They filed her letter and declared him dead.

Ward had a secret which burned deeply into his commitment to the church, one that should have prevented him from ever becoming a priest. He confessed to Reverend Philip de Carrier, S. J., that he was illegitimate. According to Philip Heseltine, a Delius biographer, Ward's father was a Spanish priest; his mother was a kitchen maid. Illegitimacy bars one from the priesthood. Ward was excommunicated and subjected to the censure of the church in 1897. Later, he was granted dispensation from the Order of St. Benedict.

Ward next appeared in Shreveport briefly, then in Houston, probably in 1898. His name continued to appear in the city directory until his death in 1912. There is evidence that as an organist, violinist and violist Ward engaged in the thriving music activity of the city. He died in poverty. He was one of an estimated 900 victims of tuberculosis in Houston that year. His funeral expenses were paid by the church and the musicians union.

Thomas Ward seemed to disappear again and again after he left Jacksonville. He was unstable and left few links when he moved from one location to the next. The mutations of his personality and his volatile relations with other St. Leo priests sent him on long journeys but his fidelity to the Catholic church never wavered. Ward is not judged to be a success or a failure, not as a Catholic, as a musician, as an orphan who bore the stigma of illegitimacy. He was a restless man in a cruel world. He gave richly of himself and his skills. If he had secrets other than his illegitimacy, they remain untold.

The unexpected value of Gillespie's book is in the descriptions of music and musicians in Brooklyn, Florida, Louisiana and Texas in the closing years of the 19th century and the first decade of the 20th. It is the story of opportunity, cruelty, deception, hardship, adaptability and finally, death. It is told informally and directly. Academic jargon is absent. The author holds back one surprising episode after another until its time has come. He has filled a lacuna that has puzzled music historians for many years. The twists and turns in this narrative are worthy of a grade A movie and a videotape.

Florida State University, Emeritus

WILEY L. HOUSEWRIGHT

Fifty Years of Southeastern Archaeology: Selected Works of John W. Griffin.
Edited by Patricia C. Griffin. Foreword by Kathleen Deagan.
(Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 1996. xx, 278 pp. Photographs, figures, tables, notes, bibliography, index. \$39.95 cloth.)

The professional life of John W. Griffin as an archaeologist was coterminous with the rise of professional archaeology in the state of Florida. He was the first professional archaeologist employed in the state in 1946 when he accepted the newly-organized position of state archaeologist under the Florida Park Service, preceding by a few months John Goggin's arrival at the University of Florida. As the book's editor has noted, the incipient nature of archaeology in Florida in that era is reflected in Griffin's selection in 1940, when he did not yet have a degree in the field, to write the archaeology section of the state and federally authorized Florida Park, Parkway, and Recreational Area Study.

Griffin stands out among archaeologists of the time when he entered the field for his interest in the relationship between archaeology and history and for his belief in the need for a multi-disciplinary approach that included historical research. Prior to becoming state archaeologist, he had written a paper entitled "The Historic Approach to Archaeology and its Application in Florida." In 1945 the *Florida Historical Quarterly* published his essay, "History and Archaeology in Florida." His first contribution had appeared in the *Quarterly* two years earlier and he was a frequent contributor over the next few years.

On resigning as state archaeologist, he served as Executive Historian of the St. Augustine Historical Society for three and one-half years beginning in 1954. He left that position at the beginning of 1958 to embark on a long career with the National Park Service as Regional Archaeologist, Southeastern Region. His continued interest in things historical was reflected in his participation that same year in a symposium on the role of archaeology in historical research, presenting a paper entitled "End Products of Historic Sites Archaeology."

This volume presents 16 representative pieces from the remarkable contributions that he made over a lifetime to the fields of North American Archaeology in general, to Florida Archaeology in particular, and to the emergence of Historical Archaeology as a distinct field. Ten of the essays included in the volume pertain to Flor-

ida archaeology and history. The rest relate to investigations that he conducted for the National Park Service in other parts of the Southeast and in the Midwest. The latter include reports on "Bison in Illinois Archaeology," and reports on Booker T. Washington's boyhood cabin site and on Osceola's burial site. The piece that will probably be most familiar to Florida historians is his "Excavations at the Site of San Luis," his contribution to *Here They Once Stood, the Tragic End of the Apalachee Missions*, one of the earliest embodiments in the United States of the collaboration between archaeologists and historians that he advocated.

The selections in this volume reflect the best of his contributions from the 1940s into the early 1990s. All of them are written in a style that makes them accessible to historians as well as to anthropologists and archaeologists. Among the most interesting for historians will be the opening chapter detailing some of Griffin's early adventures into historical archaeology long before its formal emergence as a disciplinary entity, the chapter recounting his unraveling of the mystery surrounding the identity of the Addison block house, and the last three chapters. The clarity and conciseness of his style is reflected with the greatest perfection in those last three chapters, which bear the titles: "The Men Who Met Menéndez: 8000 B.C.-1565 A.D.," "The Impact of the Conquest on the Indians of South Florida," and "The Missions of La Florida." The 16 pieces achieve the volume's original goal of making easily available some of Griffin's most important contributions to Florida anthropology, archaeology, and history, American historical archaeology, and the development of historical archaeology.

*San Luis Archaeological and
Historic Site, Tallahassee*

JOHN H. HANN

How To Do Archaeology The Right Way. By Barbara A. Purdy. (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 1996. xvi, 200 pp. Figures, preface, afterword, glossary of terms, bibliography, index. \$29.95 cloth.)

Apprenticeship allied with learning to excavate by excavating has long been, and continues to be, an essential modality in the practice of archaeology. For professional archaeologists, however, classroom and textbook learning, supplemented with laboratory

practice, are also indispensable parts of the educational process. Now with the increasing number of avocational archaeologists as part of the field team, there exists a need for handbooks specifically aimed at this group.

While several books for amateurs in the field already exist, the present volume is the first to serve this purpose for the state of Florida. The book is also intended for the general reader and might be of particular interest to conservation groups and land developers.

Using a time-line organization, the first section of the book—nearly one-third—is devoted to a description of the artifacts found in Florida and the people who made them. The remaining five chapters contain substantive guidelines on exactly how to go about the practice of archaeology, from such practical matters as how to cope with the often hot and insect-ridden field situation, through common field techniques, and on to more complicated matters.

Withal, these how-to sections of the book give the dignified impression that archaeology is a scientific endeavor, not just digging holes in the ground and finding neat things. The book helps us to understand the fragile nature of archaeological resources and the irreparable loss caused by wanton destruction.

One problem evident throughout the book, however, is an almost total absence of references to historical archaeology, odd considering that it is a major subfield in archaeology and given the fact that many avocational archaeologists take part in digs in post-European contexts. Many of the techniques are the same as for prehistoric archaeology, although historic archaeology employs some different skills and problem solving modes.

In fact, historians may take issue with the author's apparent denigration of the historical record. To speak of this record as "sometimes . . . incomplete, biased, or downright erroneous" while simultaneously praising the ability of the "archaeological data to correct, verify, and supplement written documents" ignores the modern viewpoint that history and archaeology must work together in concert. Often today this collaborative activity takes place in one broadly-based individual researcher who is able to move with ease from excavation to relevant documents (often written in Spanish in Florida) to oral history sources. Certainly as many distortions can be found in the ground as exist in the written records.

This bias also shows up in the claim on page 39 that "there is virtually no substantial evidence that beans, corn, or squash were grown prehistorically," an assertion repeated in different words on

page 67. Actually, the evidence both from historical documents and from pollen analysis of archaeological samples is convincing for the cultivation of plant food, often a seasonal activity, for the Apalachee and the Timucua, and suspected for several other native American groups in Florida as well.

In spite of the anti-historical bias and several unfounded speculations— such as “boredom” as a reason for the initiation of festival activities— the work serves as a valuable guide to those new to the field of archaeology. The last chapter on rules and regulations, including reproduction of the actual reporting documents, and the appended glossary of terms are most useful for a neophyte. The University Press of Florida is to be complimented on the style of presentation and especially on the artistic quality of the dust jacket.

How To Do Archaeology The Right Way is recommended for serious avocational archaeologists who seek to enhance their field experience and for the interested public, including historians, who wish to know how archaeologists accomplish their mission.

St. Augustine Historical Society

PATRICIA C. GRIFFIN

Our Southern Zion: A History of Calvinism in the South Carolina Low Country, 1690-1990. By Erskine Clarke. (Tuscaloosa and London: The University of Alabama Press, 1996. xiv, 434 pp. Acknowledgments, introduction, photographs, abbreviations, appendices, notes, bibliography, index, about the author. \$47.95.)

To be candid, the title and especially the subtitle of Erskine Clarke's new book did not captivate this student of southern religious history, notwithstanding the sound and colorful work its author has previously done.

Does great significance lie in the history of Presbyterian churches of Charleston and surrounding counties in the South Carolina low country from the colonial period to the present? I supposed probably not. The subject gave signs of being tedious, ethnocentric, and provincial, as manifested by the primary phraseology which descended from “our southern Zion” to “our kind of people” and “our little world.”

What I failed to reckon with was that few civilizations in North American have come close to matching its excellence during the heyday of the Old South era in economic achievement, intellectual

attainment, and social refinement. A lethal liability was everywhere to be seen, however, even helping to make it possible. The enslavement of human beings would catch up with all that attainment; it was only a matter of time.

Clarke delineates well the composition and culture-specific qualities and values in the civilization, and succeeds in penetrating the Calvinistic worldview. We are shown what the "Christ the transformer of culture" Calvinist conviction meant and did in a particular setting. The low country Calvinists exercised their calling toward the building of a Christian civilization, a holy commonwealth, a local Zion.

Among their achievements were numerous Presbyterian and Congregational congregations and buildings, ministers and theologians of real stature, and effective ministries to black residents, free and slave, urban and rural. Many of us have not known long that the paucity of black Presbyterians in the South was a late development. Until the 1870s this heritage was an indigenized and substantial feature of local religious life. White Calvinists led the way for the larger South in preparing catechetical instructions for the slaves and instilling a distinctive theology of belief and practice.

Quite impressive is Clarke's not needing to distinguish between "church history" and "religious history." The churches, their heritage, their institutional life, their cultural participation and leadership, and their theology are the subjects he treats. But their being part of a society-culture, both adapting to it and holding their own in the face of it, are just as basic to the inquiry here. Indeed Clarke's historiographical sophistication makes this a model church/religious historical study. By acknowledging interaction and integration, he proceeds with great skill to study a time and place, a Protestant heritage, and a society as some kind of whole. The Old South organicists of whom he writes with such perception, Thornwell, Adger, Girardeau, Smyth, and others, would have recognized his kind of historiographical organicism.

Of course both they and he had a superior script from which to take cues, namely the Calvinist program for church and society. Disclosing its dialectical dynamic to public understanding is the author's governing design; the "competing impulses" are the Scholastic and the Humanistic (in theological language, Word and Spirit). The former describes Calvinism's convictions about order, harmony, structure, fear of anarchy, and hierarchy. "Humanistic" captures its devotion to openness, freedom, persuasion, and an

egalitarian vision. The heritage is complex in just such a profound dialectical manner.

Perhaps the Calvinism-South Carolina low country symbiosis is the only fertile time and place for examining the religious history of the South with such rewards. In any event, we have in *Our Southern Zion* an exceedingly fine study of a flourishing civilization in which a formidable theological tradition wrought defining and propelling perspectives. Clarke discerned wisely that his subject held high promise and he has presented us with a study of high quality indeed.

University of Florida

SAMUEL S. HILL

James Glen: From Scottish Provost to Royal Governor of South Carolina. By W. Stitt Robinson. (Westport: Greenwood Press, 1996. xi, 176 pp. Preface, introduction, photographs, notes, bibliographical essay, index, about the author. \$52.95 cloth.)

It was no easy thing to be a British colonial governor in mid-18th century America, nor is it an easy thing to write a biography of such a man. W. Stitt Robinson has pursued James Glen, Governor of South Carolina from 1738 to 1756, with utmost diligence and describes Glen's career in great detail. Robinson's research in the extensive public records and private manuscripts has enabled him to correct a significant number of errors and omissions in the historical account. The result is a slender, carefully phrased monograph, designed for scholars interested in colonial South Carolina.

James Glen was born in 1701, the eldest son of a locally prominent family in Linlithgow, Scotland. The Glens escaped the curse of Jacobitism and were faithful adherents of the Hanoverian interest in Scottish politics. Service in London led to a connection with Spencer Compton, Lord Wilmington, and to him Glen gave thanks for his gubernatorial appointment in 1738. Robinson notes that Glen married Wilmington's illegitimate daughter and that Glen's sister was Robert Walpole's mistress. If so, strange bed fellows made for good politics.

It was five years before Glen sailed for his new appointment. His gubernatorial salary had been reduced, he dabbled in colonial business at the Board of Trade, and may have sought a more lucrative position elsewhere. He finally stepped ashore at Charles Town

in 1743, armed with orders and commissions that weighed heavily upon the new governor but were far distant from the realities of life in South Carolina.

The details of Glen's administration need not be reviewed here; Robinson covers them all exhaustively and credits Glen with considerable success. Indian problems required much of Glen's attention, but rival tribes, chieftains, and traders were only momentarily bound by treaties. Relations between governor, council, and assembly were always antagonistic and could not be resolved on "constitutional" grounds. When Glen came to terms with the Bull and Drayton families he had, at least, some political support. There was no end to quarrels with other southern governors, in which Glen proved as prickly and uncooperative as any. His tenure lasted until 1756, when political changes in England led to his removal. Surprisingly, he remained in South Carolina until 1761. Upon returning to Britain, he undertook the thankless task of keeping an eye on Drayton's boys, settled down in London, and died in 1777.

Robinson's book is full of gubernatorial and colonial business as reflected in the public records. There is little to illumine the personal life and character of James Glen, to humanize him. He remains an ill-fitting cog in a creaky and complex colonial machine whose collapse was inevitable.

Auburn University, Emeritus

ROBERT R. REA

Judgment and Grace in Dixie: Southern Faiths from Faulkner to Elvis. By Charles Reagan Wilson. (Athens and London: University of Georgia Press, 1995. xiii, 202 pp. Preface, acknowledgments, introduction, photographs, afterword, notes, index. \$29.95 cloth.)

Charles Reagan Wilson, co-editor of *The Encyclopedia of Southern Culture* and a professor of history and southern studies at the University of Mississippi, has compiled a volume of 12 essays, written at different times for varied publications. Wilson presents two themes designed to tie the essays together. The first explores the impact of popular religion on southern culture in the 20th century. The second, more specific, theme examines the role that religion played in southern creative expression. To this end, for example, the author explores an interesting variety of subjects: death themes in country music, church fans, folk art, beauty pageants, and an inside look at the 27,000-member First Baptist Church of Dallas, Texas.

Wilson defines popular religion as a set of practices existing outside of formal church institutions, with worship that embraces the supernatural and is related to the people rather than the church leaders. Professor Wilson also points out that civil religion serves to bind “official” religion and “popular” religion in the South. Civil religion includes prayers before football games and paintings of Jesus on black velvet. Popular religion, explains Wilson, is also closely related to southern folk religion— characterized by scriptural literalism, isolation, emotionalism, and an informal organization with an oral tradition. On these matters, the author displays an expertise that was first evident in his well-regarded study, *Baptized in Blood: The Religion of the Lost Cause*.

Wilson provides the reader with a helpful introduction and two explanatory chapters. The first chapter surveys the distinctiveness of southern religion while chapter two describes the transformation of southern civil religion over the period 1920-1980. For Wilson, the South’s identity and regional consciousness are consequences of the region’s historical experience. Wilson cites the defeat of the Confederacy in the Civil War and the myth of the Lost Cause as vital factors in molding Southern attitudes. Warriors like Robert E. Lee were portrayed as heroes in a just and holy cause. The Confederate battle flag, the song “Dixie,” and statues of Lee served as symbols of the past to assist the defeated South with a crisis of confidence and identity. The southern agrarians in *I’ll Take My Stand* believed that southerners were the Chosen People and being a white southerner was based on spiritual superiority. Trying to rejuvenate southern culture, the agrarians attacked materialism and industrialization, touting the South as the savior of the world since her farmers had uniquely managed to link spiritual and material values.

Perhaps the most intriguing essays deal with two famous sons of the South. The author presents Elvis Presley as a polite Pentecostal who loved his mother and grew up on church music. His enormous success as an entertainer made this good ole boy into a saint and a transcendent Icon (“Elvis Lives”). Wilson concludes that Paul “Bear” Bryant, the successful football coach at the University of Alabama, “was as close to a southern saint as the modern South has produced.” Indeed, football is God in many parts of the South and southern superiority is demonstrated by victory over northern schools. Wilson sees Bryant’s funeral in 1983 as “probably unsurpassed in southern history.” It is estimated that over 500,000 people lined the 53-mile funeral route from Tuscaloosa to Birmingham,

his final resting place. Over 10,000 mourners attended the graveside ceremony and hundreds still make yearly pilgrimages to the tomb. A popular artifact in Alabama is a life-sized portrait of the "Bear" walking on water. Bryant achieved heroic stature, states Wilson, because the South, in the person of Coach Bryant, had overcome poverty and defeat (Bryant won).

In the remaining essays, the author presents an analysis of the influence of evangelical protestantism on William Faulkner's writing and an off-beat discussion of southern folk art—roadside signs of "Jesus Saves." Wilson is less successful in incorporating the "South's Search for Good Books" and "The Cult of Beauty" into his themes. Some of this material, photographs of sacred southern space, is interesting, but somewhat on the margin.

Overall this is a valuable and enlightening collection of essays. The work is focused on southern culture as much as on southern religion, and Wilson provides the reader with new concepts in analyzing southern culture in transition. There is inevitably some repetition and overlap in the essays, but not enough to detract from the general value of the book. Although his sources are almost exclusively secondary, Wilson demonstrates a superior knowledge and mastery of these sources. Some pieces seem ephemeral, but this book of essays offers richer rewards than a superficial meandering through southern culture. *Judgment and Grace in Dixie* is well written, the interpretations are sound, and much of the material is fascinating.

University of Florida, Gainesville

JULIAN W. PLEASANCE

The People's Writer: Erskine Caldwell and the South. By Wayne Mixon. (Charlottesville and London: University Press of Virginia, 1996. xv, 256 pp. Preface, acknowledgments, introduction, notes, bibliography, illustrations, index. \$27.50 cloth.)

A former professor of mine recalled Erskine Caldwell's *Tobacco Road* as a book he shared in scandalous secret with other southern boys during the 1930s. I, too, felt like hiding behind a closed door. When I read Caldwell's classic novel, for I received the distinct impression of distaste from my mother-in-law who found me absorbed in it during a recent visit to her Birmingham home. The stigma associated with *Tobacco Road* and Caldwell's other sensational portrayals of the South's marginalized, initiated with their publication in

the Depression era, exists still in the 1990s. For this reason, Wayne Mixon's *The People's Writer* provides a valuable introduction to Caldwell and some of his most significant writing. Elaborating on Caldwell's life and intellectual contexts, Mixon allows both the general and academic reader to get beyond the condemnation that often overshadows Caldwell in order to arrive at a more informed understanding of the author, his literary inspiration, and the mixed responses of his audiences.

The People's Writer is a biographical account of Caldwell's life and the influences that shaped his writing, interlaced with a review of the responses that his work first received from critics and the general public. Mixon's book is different from other biographical and critical looks at Caldwell in that it focuses on Caldwell's writing of the 1930s and early 1940s specifically in an effort to examine his portrayal of the South as well as the way that portrayal was received by southern audiences. Mixon believes that Caldwell's early writing, depicting his native southern ground and its concomitant social injustices, is his most important work and that the South is the lightning rod of Caldwell's authorial inspiration. It is Mixon's goal to highlight the prime of Caldwell's prolific career— and the South's role in its cultivation— in order to allow for the fairest appraisal of Caldwell's place in literary history.

Mixon offers a thematic characterization of Caldwell as the people's writer— a writer for those who, due to ravaging social and economic conditions, could not write their own stories of protest— as a way to affirm the realities and reasoning upon which Caldwell's writing is based. Mixon describes Caldwell's vision of himself in this capacity as one of the few constants in an otherwise contradictory life. According to Mixon, it is this constant that should be remembered when one questions the reliability of Caldwell's portrayal of the Depression-era South. Mixon points out that even though some of the most inconceivable incidents of Caldwell's writing can be confirmed, it is best to trust in Caldwell simply because of the tenacity and passion with which he fought social injustice throughout his life and career. Through well-researched detail Mixon reveals that the testament of Caldwell's reliability was his untiring attempt to fuse art and activism.

Besides Caldwell's activism, Mixon considers the exceptionalism of Caldwell's heavy-handed treatment of class, gender, religion, and race, describing Caldwell as one of few southern writers who "[tore] down the idols enshrined in the temple that housed the

myths of a benign South" (166). Mixon concedes that Caldwell may have created his own mythic South but he concludes that it "bore greater resemblance to the lives of millions of southerners than did the myth generated by many other southern writers of the 1920s and 1930s" (166). Mixon, too, has done his best to debunk several myths that have followed Caldwell throughout his life and after his death. Count *The People's Writer* as a successful attempt to create a realistic and well-balanced picture of a writer who had a unique relationship with his native South.

EILEEN KNOTT

Biographical Dictionary of the Union - Northern Leaders of the Civil War.
 Edited by John T. Hubbell and James W. Geary. (Westport and London: Greenwood Press, 1995. 696 pp. Introduction, biographical references, bibliography, index. \$99.50.)

Biographical Dictionary of the Union has all the elements necessary to become an indispensable reference for Civil War writers and researchers. It is a handsome volume which combines the services of 124 distinguished authors and historians writing on a subject which still continues to fascinate scholars and the public 130 years after Appomattox. To their credit, the editors were not content to simply rehash the same tired material. They attempt, instead, to shed light on subjects too often neglected in studies of the sectional conflict: women, African-Americans, and soldiers and politicians in the Trans-Mississippi and Far West. However, despite these assets, this book is only partially successful.

This volume is at its best when it concentrates on Northern politicians. More than half of the 872 biographical entries deal with the saints and sinners, Copperheads and abolitionists, heroes and cowards who guided the Union through America's greatest conflict. While much of the raw data is available in the *Biographical Directory of the United States Congress, 1774-1989* and *Biographical Directory of the Governors of the United States, 1789-1978*, most of the well-written sketches manage to breath life into the Yankee political elite. Ambassadors, cabinet officers, and members of the Supreme Court, along with a liberal sprinkling of artists, editors, propagandists, and orators, add dash to the list of usual suspects, and an excellent bibliography added several new volumes to this reader's Christmas book list.

Military historians, on the other hand, may be disappointed. Although many divisional and corps commanders are included, scholars should not yet discard their copies of Ezra Warner's *Generals in Blue*. Too many important combat officers were omitted. Hard-fighting brigadiers such as Lewis Addison Grant, John Frederick Hartsranft, and Thomas Alfred Smyth were left out, and naval officers are under-represented. The editors acknowledge that their selections "may not be satisfactory to all readers," but rather contemptuously relegate this discussion as a proper subject for Civil War Round Tables. Yet editorial responsibility is vital in a work such as this. Minor players on the national stage often receive more attention than those whose contribution was vital to a Union victory. For example, why does Jane Grey Cannon Swisshelm, an abolitionist and editor, receive more space than Winfield Scott Hancock, the superb commander of the Army of the Potomac's II Corps, and Joshua Chamberlain, the hero of the Federal defense of Little Round Top at Gettysburg? Likewise, Henry Cornelius Burnett, a Southern Rights candidate from Kentucky to the 1861 emergency session of Congress, receives a longer entry than Chamberlain or Hancock, though the Kentuckian led a Confederate cavalry regiment and spent the remainder of the war as a Confederate senator.

Those readers whose primary interest is Florida history will find little new or exciting in this book. The southernmost state receives only passing mention in the book and few individuals important to the Union cause in Florida are included.

There is much to admire in the *Biographical Dictionary of the Union*, and it is a useful reference source. Sadly, it misses becoming an indispensable tool for the Civil War researcher by just an eyelash.

Rome, Georgia

ZACH WATERS

The Papers of Andrew Johnson, Volume 12, February-August 1867. Edited by Paul H. Bergeron. (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1995. xxvii, 558 pp. Introduction, notes, acknowledgments, editorial method, chronology, illustrations, annotations, appendices, index. \$49.50.)

During the seven months of February-August 1867 Congress passed three Reconstruction Acts and the Tenure of Office Act, and President Johnson suspended Edwin M. Stanton as secretary of war. "Meanwhile," the editor of his papers observes, "the politically mal-

adroit Johnson played into the hands of his would-be impeachers by his vetoes, his removal of officials, and his steadily worsening relations with a majority of Congress," Politically maladroit the president certainly was, but he was acting in accordance with his convictions (or prejudices) and his misconceptions, as is shown by this collection of some 500 documents, most of which are letters addressed to him.

As one of his correspondents, a North Carolina woman, wrote him, "we cant divest our minds of the idea that the President is the Father of the Country & as such we must all pour into his ears our wants & cares." Their wants included pardons and, above all, jobs. It was hard for Johnson to distribute the patronage to his own advantage, however, since parties were in flux and he got conflicting advice. Don't appoint Copperheads, or you will cause Conservative Republicans to "vote with the radicals." Don't give patronage to the "Conservative Party," but "go with the Democrats." Don't make "any effort to transfer the Conservative element . . . to the Democratic party."

Citizens seeking favors flattered the president with assurances of his rightfulness and his popularity. "The voters of New York my dear sir will adhere to you . . . feeling contemp[t] for the imbecile traitors . . . [who have tried] to seduce you from your patriotic course." Similar assurances came from prominent public figures, among them James Gordon Bennett of the *New York Herald*, looking ahead to the election of 1868. "He told me yesterday," a *Herald* man wrote to Johnson (August 27, 1867), "that you would most probably be impeached by the Radicals, & that this would insure your Election in a perfect tornado of public opinion."

Reports from the South were such as to confirm Johnson in his opposition to Radical Reconstruction. From South Carolina: "the maintenance of the 'Freedmans Bureau' is a great mistake. Were that abolished the Negro would at once become self sustaining." From Georgia: "Negro Bureaus, School Marms civil rights Bills and lastly Shermans Military bill are the means resorted to [to] stir up the negroes against the white race of this southern country."

Johnson received a death threat from some apparent psychotic who objected to the trial of John A. Surratt for complicity in the Lincoln assassination, but if any citizens threatened Johnson on account of his policies or even protested against them, the letters have not been included in this collection. The only objections here recorded came from his general in chief, Ulysses S. Grant, who tried to dissuade him from suspending Stanton and removing General Philip H. Sheridan from command in Louisiana.

It is small wonder, then, that Johnson lost touch with reality. He denied that in removing Sheridan his "purpose was to prevent a due execution of the law." He gave a reporter reason to believe "he is very little concerned about the impeachment which he evidently regards as a big joke." Convinced that bad men from the North were rousing blacks against whites in the South, he told another reporter: "A war of races is inevitable if such a state of affairs goes on." Yet, after visiting New England and North Carolina, he declared at a public meeting: "my reception both North and South . . . indicates to me an era of good feeling and reconciliation between the two sections."

The editing of this volume, as of the preceding volumes, is impeccable.

South Natick, Massachusetts

RICHARD N. CURRENT

Indian Depredation, Claims, 1796-1920. By Larry C. Skogen. (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1996. xx, 320 pp. Preface, introduction, illustrations, map, notes, bibliography, index. \$34.95 cloth.)

Early American officials realized that when thefts and depredations took place between Indians and whites, attempts at revenge could escalate into all out war. Hoping to keep the peace, the new American nation in 1796 created the Indian Depredation Claims system where whites and Indians, if they had been robbed by the other, could apply to the government for compensation. Indians rarely, if ever, took advantage of the system and it did little to keep the peace between the two peoples. In fact, Larry C. Skogen, a major in the Air Force and formerly an Assistant Professor of History at the U.S. Air Force Academy, believes that the system actually encouraged recklessness on the part of whites who believed that the government would reimburse them for losses at the hands of Indians no matter what.

American merchants and settlers were sadly mistaken in this belief. Throughout the 124-year period of depredation claims, the government set many restrictions on what was a legitimate claim. Individuals had to be on United States territory when the depredation took place or be on legitimate business in Indian territory; could not have tried to gain satisfaction on their own; could not

claim depredations due to war; could not make a claim for personal suffering; had to make the claim within three years of the depredation; and, supposedly, the money to pay the claim should come out of the annuities due the Indians who had committed the depredation. These stipulations created a host of problems for the claimant. Where exactly was U.S. territory when the western border was rapidly moving west almost daily? What happened if an Indian nation did not have enough annuities to cover all the claims against them? If not from the Indians, from whom should the money to pay the claim come?

When it came to these claims, the wheels of justice ground slow, but did not grind sure. Skogen points out that most claimants never received any compensation, with only three percent of all claims ever being paid. When claimants received compensation, it was usually far below what they asked, though they normally grossly inflated their losses, often blaming Indians when they actually lost money due to business reverses. Worse, it took years for a claim to be paid or even disallowed, sometimes as long as fifty years. Only those claimants with lawyers possessing political connections seemed to receive relatively speedy and large compensations. It was only after 1891 when Congress transferred the depredation claims to the Court of Claims did the process speed up somewhat.

Ironically, the Indians appeared to be the winners in the claims process. The government always believed that Indians should pay for the depredations, but this rarely happened as most officials realized it would leave the Indians destitute. Rarely were Indian annuities plundered to pay for depredations, though the Dakota Sioux, in retaliation for the 1862 Great Sioux Uprising, were the biggest losers. Instead, most payments came out of the U.S. Treasury, with the last payment being made in 1920.

Skogen has done a fine job with a complicated subject. His exhaustive use of primary sources, mainly congressional, Indian Office, and court records, as well as claimant affidavits, gives this book legitimacy. Skogen admits that, as part of the University of Oklahoma Press' Legal History of North America series, his work mainly deals not so much with Indians themselves, but with government policy. Still, this is a fine piece of work and while some of the legal maneuvers can be hard to follow, Skogen has done a good job of making a complex subject readable.

University of North Carolina at Wilmington

DAVID LA VERE

James J. Hill: Empire Builder of the Northwest. By Michael P. Malone. (Norman and London: University of Oklahoma Press, 1996. xiv, 306 pp. Series editor's preface, preface, illustrations, bibliographic essay, index. \$29.95 hardcover.)

Much has been written about post-Civil War era entrepreneurs and their role in the development of the nation, but some writers too frequently indulge in the sterile discussion about whether they were captains of industry or robber barons. Michael P. Malone avoids such distraction by neither glorifying nor defaming James J. Hill. Instead, he depicts him as a man of remarkable ability and determination who at times could be ruthless and overbearing. As a consequence he has crafted an easy-to-read, interesting, and informative interpretive biography.

According to Malone, Hill's early family life in Canada molded him into a self-sufficient individual whose driving ambition, remarkable work ethic, and engaging personality served him well as the man who became the guiding force in the development of Minnesota and the Northwest. At age 17 he left his home in Canada to eventually settle in St. Paul, Minnesota, the head of navigation on the Mississippi River. As clerk for one of the many shipping firms, he not only kept the books but handled the incoming and outgoing freight which involved manual labor on the docks and in warehouses. An injured eye, the result of a childhood accident, disqualified him from military service during the war years, but those rambunctious times of river traffic gave him ample opportunity to learn how to extract favorable rates from shippers, to purchase commodities cheaply, to undercut competitors, and to cultivate customer loyalty. More importantly, he recognized the importance of efficiency in competition. This continuing quest for efficiency made his railroads the best constructed in the nation. In those early years he also developed his instincts for vertical integration.

His emergence from local to regional and then national significance began in 1878. This was the age of railroads, and coming into that industry with experience in transportation and shipping gave him an advantage over those with experience only in finance. Hill's greatest sense of accomplishment was the construction and operation of the St. Paul, Minneapolis, and Manitoba Railway, and because of this company's competition with the Northern Pacific and the Canadian Pacific, Hill pushed his railroad through to the Pacific coast. Hill disparaged other railroad entrepreneurs because

they built quickly and poorly to gain government subsidies, and although he also obtained government subsidies (particularly for the "Manitoba") and federal assistance in obtaining right-of-way through Indian reservation lands, his desire for an efficient transportation system demanded well-built roadbeds, low grades, and gentle curvatures. When hard times carried the shoddily built roads into bankruptcy, Hill's lines were returning a profit. Hill encouraged timber cutting on the Pacific slopes and mining in the Mesabi Range to provide goods for return traffic thus cutting down on deadheading costs.

Hill was not active in politics although he held strong views on the role of government in transportation. His disdain for wasteful competition led to his formulating the community of interest concept which fostered the Northern Securities Company. This, however, ran head-on into opposition from the Interstate Commerce Commission, the courts, and the people who saw it as a scheme to strangle competition. Malone points out that Hill's community of interest concept finally was accepted when the Supreme Court approved the new corporation of Burlington Northern, Inc., in the 1970s. Malone demonstrates that Hill was one man who did make a difference on the local, state, and national levels. He also shows what passions are unleashed when such powerful men face opposition.

University of Central Florida, Emeritus

PAUL W. WEHR

Guns or Butter: The Presidency of Lyndon Johnson. By Irving Bernstein. (New York: Oxford University Press, 1996. x, 606 pp. Prologue, photographs, notes, index. \$35.00 hardcover.)

This massive study constitutes a long and loud declaration that legislative history is not only alive but can be solidly informative and at times highly entertaining. Bernstein takes us through every major piece of legislation of the Johnson years. We see the background of the problem or issue, something of the leading advocates for change, and then a close step by step journey through the often devious corridors of the House and Senate. With victory accomplished (or in the later years defeat made manifest) we receive a summation of praise or blame.

If this study gives sustenance to present day believers in the Great Society, it also constitutes a major listing of everything that infuriates a Gingrich conservative. The Imperial Presidency (this

time in its liberal guise) is on display for all to see. It was rare indeed that Lyndon Johnson met a law he didn't like, and the frequent forays of Bill Moyers into Ivy League territory hoping to find some problem discovered by a professor that could be translated into legislation is hardly a procedure that even moderates can digest with pleasure. Bernstein has a penchant for seeing liberals as "highly intelligent" and "brilliant." Conservatives are a dull lot, and, as far as the reader can tell, somewhat mentally retarded.

Bernstein's treatment of Johnson and the Vietnam War is thorough, relatively even-handed, and conclusive on the point that Lyndon Johnson was his own worse enemy. He became so personally involved in the war, he invested so much of his gigantic ego in the struggle that he could not accept criticism and almost lost any connection with reality.

The Johnson Presidency was a turning point in American life. The Vietnam War was our Armageddon, our Valley of Doubt and Despair, and finally our call to sanity after all the genies were already loose in the land. If you want to understand our present, if you want to grasp the issues of contemporary debate then read this book. Here lie the hopes and aspirations for national health insurance, civil rights, environmental protection, and governmental support of education, public television, and the arts.

The title of this book states the dilemma that confronted Lyndon Johnson. He believed—against all the evidence to the contrary—that he could have reform at home and war abroad. He knowingly and publicly lied in order to have his way and he misled even his own aides as to the true state of affairs. It seems safe to conclude that Lyndon Johnson and his successor Richard Nixon told more lies to the American people than all of our former Presidents combined.

Perhaps *hubris* is always corroding, but when it dominates a President the tragedies it produces are world-wide in their scope.

Georgia Southern College, Emeritus

ROBERT DAVID WARD

God in the Stadium: Sports and Religion in America. By Robert J. Higgs. (Lexington: The University Press of Kentucky, 1995. xv, 383 pp. Preface, bibliography, index. \$15.95.)

In a recent popular song, musician Paul Simon, himself an avid New York Yankees fan, observed that "the cross is in the ballpark," a comment to which Robert Higgs might lend a hearty "Amen."

Higgs, an emeritus professor of English, has written a thoughtful tome on what he calls “the symbiotic relationship between sports and religion” in American history. His is a wide-ranging and eclectic discourse on the “religionizing of sports” in American culture, one which blends literary criticism with a cultural critique that would give even the most devoted Seminole or Gator fans reason to pause.

This work has no direct bearing on the subject of Florida history, but it does speak to historical and contemporary forms of ritualistic behavior routinely reenacted on athletic fields and in family rooms across the country. From the Puritan Sabbath to Super Bowl Sunday, Higgs has as his object what he calls the ongoing “religionizing of sports” in American life. He draws a careful distinction between sports and play, and the imagery of the “Christian Knight” and the “Shepherd” as contrasting ideals in public culture. Higgs leaves no doubt as to his belief that it is the knightly proponent of muscular Christianity who has triumphed in sports culture.

From Cotton Mather to Oral Roberts, Higgs engages a wide range of subjects. He is particularly strong in the middle section of the book, those chapters which deal with sport and public culture from the Civil War to the First World War. Whether the subject is West Point, the YMCA, the rise of college sports, or sport and masculine character, Higgs seems most comfortable and has his best control of source materials in this time period. Not surprisingly, Theodore Roosevelt looms large as a representative specimen in this study, personifying the Knight and encouraging the rugged individualism of manly character associated with the type.

This is not a comprehensive survey, however, and there are some surprising omissions. The very image he employs—the Knight—excludes women, who seem to have neither voice nor presence in this analysis of four centuries of public life in America; especially in the portions dealing with college athletics, this is a glaring omission. Nor are all dimensions of professional and amateur athletics brought under the author’s lens. Finally, there is an abrupt leap from the era of the first Red Scare to the era of big screen television. If ever there was a crisis of faith in this scenario, it came in 1919-1920, and some informed discussion of the Black Sox Scandal and its relationship to the “Christian Knight” metaphor would have been appropriate.

Higgs’ primary sources include works of literature and published sources drawn from the various periods of colonial and national history, as well as a wealth of popular culture studies bearing

on more recent times. One finds no use of college or church archives, nor any evidence that the author immersed himself in a sustained or systematic investigation of the public and private institutions he sometimes discusses at length.

The virtue of this study is its broad reach, and its effort to synthesize sport and religion in the public values and private rituals of American life. This is a work that belongs to the culture studies genre, and it will appeal to those interested in popular culture, sport history, and the enduring debate over civil religion in America.

Millersville University

DENNIS B. DOWNEY

White House to Your House: Media and Politics in Virtual America. By Edwin Diamond and Robert A. Silverman. (Cambridge: The MIT Press, 1995. xiii, 178 pp. Preface, introduction, acknowledgments, notes, index. \$20.00 hardcover.)

In some ways the past thirty years have defined an expansive period for American democracy. Sweeping legal reforms have greatly broadened electoral enfranchisement. Technological change has eased access to political information by ordinary citizens, a change given potential importance by rising education levels among the mass public. And virtually all forms of political activity, from the mobilization of interest groups and the nomination of presidential candidates to the way Congress conducts its business, have been democratized, removed from the hands of organizational elites and placed in the hands of individuals. Yet expansion of the process has not always enhanced the quality of democratic outcomes. Indeed, among many observers of American politics it has now become a conventional theme, if not a point of general agreement, to deplore the pathologies of (in Samuel Huntington's term) this "democratic distemper" and to lament the decline of organizational coherence, elite control, and accountability. A brief survey of current or recent catch-phrases— "single issue politics," "hyper-pluralism," "gridlock," or (a particularly memorable coinage) "demosclerosis"— conveys the perceived character and ominous consequences of Americans' naive faith in plebiscitary processes.

Edwin Diamond and Robert Silverman are entirely faithful to this established rhetorical form, both in their portentous style ("In the pages that follow we trace the emergence of a place that looks

like a real democracy, and a real country, but is in fact a construct, like reality but not real”) and, more importantly, in their choice of culprit: The “contemporary media” are cynically exploiting the “technology of a wired nation” and “reshaping American public life.” Of course, the idea that broadcast journalism has hastened (or even caused) the decline of traditional intermediary organizations is not new, so Diamond and Silverman are obliged to offer a fresh angle to this familiar thesis. The first media-driven transformation of politics (exemplified by the Kennedy-Nixon debates of 1960) was engineered by the “new power brokers” of broadcast news (“Walter Cronkite and his counterparts at the other two major networks”) and the columnists and commentators of elite print journalism (“the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, the weekly magazines, and a few other representatives of Big Print”). In the current era (epitomized, in the authors’ view, by practically everything that happened during the 1992 presidential election year), new “pop/interactive media” as varied as *Larry King Live*, *CNN*, *The Today Show*, *Phil Donahue*, and *Hard Copy* have asserted their role as political forums and shapers of opinion. These formats, the authors say (with understatement all too rare in this book), “appear to represent the next development in politics.” Diamond and Silverman illustrate this distinction in a series of brief vignettes in chapter form (ten, in a book that runs to 158 pages of text)—retelling the stories, for example, of Clinton’s appearance on Arsenio Hall’s talk show (a sophisticated choice, since “the middle brow Jay Leno program would be too square and the ironist David Letterman’s program too hip”) and Bill and Hillary Clinton’s campaign-salvaging appearance on *60 Minutes* to defuse Gennifer Flowers’ lurid accusations. In fact, much like students of presidential power who felt compelled, after Reagan, to reassess the relative importance of public admiration (which Reagan had) and insider bargaining skills (which Reagan sorely lacked), Diamond and Silverman appear set on using Clinton’s natural affinity for the media’s new “soft formats” to confirm the emerging importance of these modes of communication.

The authors’ old media/new media theme rests on an interesting and often entertaining distinction, but it is a distinction that, in the end, does not make much of a difference. We have known since the serious advent of television in the late 1950s that televised politics favors the depiction of action (not the values connoted by the action), is drawn to the unusual (not the mundane “stump

speech”), thrives on controversy and conflict (not the appearance of consensus), and thus amplifies the adversarial climate of American campaigns. The authors’ concisely drawn portrait of the 1992 election illustrates quite nicely that the new media formats are now continuing in this tradition.

University of Central Florida

PHILIP H. POLLOCK

The Populist Persuasion: An American History. By Michael Kazin (New York: Basic Books, 1995. 381 pp. Acknowledgments, introduction, photographs, notes, bibliography, index. \$24.00 hardcover).

As the discontent of the American public waxes and wanes over such issues as budget deficits, the growth of the national debt, corporate downsizing, various other disconcerting employment dynamics resulting from an increasingly global economy and international trade agreements, the inadequate availability of private health insurance for many, the right of a woman to choose between childbirth or abortion, affirmative action programs, tax reduction, the underfunding of federal social and health insurance trusts, illegal immigration, the undiminished availability of illegal drugs and drug addiction, government “bail-outs” of foreign governments and multi-national corporations, welfare reform, anti-incumbency-inspired proposals for term limits, etc., Michael Kazin offers in *The Populist Persuasion* a timely and sweeping overview of earlier rises, shifts, and falls of discontent in America during the 19th and 20th centuries.

Yet an understanding of discontents in bygone times is but a part of the scope and thrust of *The Populist Persuasion*. Mr. Kazin describes at some length both the language and the images which were used to express various discontents, and most importantly, how the resulting human energies were channeled (or dissipated) in the formation of Populist movements and the search for particular outcomes. In an effort to categorize, politically, particular Populist movements and trends in the changing nature of such movements, Mr. Kazin uses what some may consider overly broad characterizations - namely, that of the political “Left” or “Right.” According to Mr. Kazin, the more notable Populist movements of the Left largely occurred between the late 19th century and the

conclusion of World War II; the vast majority of Populist movements between 1945 and 1990 were largely those of the Right, as the political Left had badly splintered following a number of social and economic successes and the gradual political demise of liberalism since the early 1970s.

While such broad characterizations as political "Left" or "Right" may have a certain utility and convenience, Mr. Kazin also indicates that it is difficult to describe some of the Populist movements quite so simply. This dilemma is evident, for example, where Mr. Kazin charitably treats certain stirrings or specific ventures on the Right as Populist movements when in reality they were, at best, *pseudo-movements* in which disenchanting, largely unorganized, or marginally organized groups of discontented citizens were shrewdly manipulated and incited by demagogues or other narrowly motivated prominent personalities with personal agendas who knew how to use and did use the modern media skillfully to demonize others who held opposing viewpoints. An early and classical model of such is found in Mr. Kazin's apt description of the conduct of, and the public response to, Senator Joseph McCarthy during the years 1950-54. More recent models of thankfully lesser significance are often found in, and indeed seem to abound in, the oversupply of politically inspired radio talk show personalities.

The Populist Persuasion, by reviewing numerous and diverse movements, affords the reader an opportunity to reflect upon the vast complexities inherent in such movements: the intensification and spread of discontent; the particular and essential chain of events which put the formation or organized activities; the emphasis (as well as the suppression, and at times, the sacrifice) of certain movement aims by movement leaders; the building and the falling apart of coalitions; and the significant impacts upon certain movements by uncontrollable external events such as World War I, the Great Depression, World War II, and the Cold War. The significance of the latter considerations (i.e., external events) is readily evident in the aftermath of the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe and the sharply increased focus of the American public on domestic dissatisfactions in the 1990s.

The Populist Movement further offers a number of valuable insights in terms of the overall composition of specific movements, and the underlying reasons for the ultimate success, limited achievements, or lack of success of each respective movement. Also of considerable interest is the treatment of the political parties

which were spawned and formally established by particular movements, and the relatively brief history of each. Of no less interest are the political candidates who sought to ride the crest of public discontent into public office, the difficulties which many of them encountered, and what (if any) lasting impact they may have had on the course of domestic politics. Additionally, Mr. Kazin's efforts reveal what appears to be a trend among aspiring movement leaders to create, foster, and use human energies for narrow, even mean-spirited objectives. This is most readily seen at the present time in the manner in which issues are formulated and articulated, particularly in the use of the electronic media for the widespread delivery of negative messages.

Mr. Kazin wraps up his analysis of Populist movements by noting that "there is a disjunction between the language of electioneering and the self-evident realities of American culture." The extent of this disjuncture and the overall dissatisfaction with the establishment Democratic and Republican parties is, according to a variety of professional polling organizations, growing rapidly. A March 1996 article in *The New York Time Magazine* by Gerald Posner discusses the implications of a Lewis Harris voter "alienation index" which reflects two-thirds of American voters are dissatisfied and dismayed with a sense of powerlessness. Mr. Kazin is likely to have opportunities to continue his analysis of public discontent and Populist movements for many, many years.

Melbourne, Fla.

ED DOLAN

A Politician Goes to War: The Civil War Letters of John White Geary.

Edited by William Alan Blair. Selections and introduction by Bell Irvin Wiley. (University Park: The Pennsylvania State University Press, 1995. Preface, introduction, photographs, index. \$27.50 hardcover.)

This posthumous work of Bell I. Wiley, *A Politician Goes to War*, describes the Civil War experience of Major General John White Geary. Wiley is renowned for his studies of Civil War soldiers, both North and South. The publication of these selected letters of General Geary is a result of the discovery of Wiley's research, which was completed and published by William Alan Blair.

Wiley's generation felt the pull of nationalism which sought to minimize the differences between the soldiers of the North and

South. For Wiley and most historians of the 20th century, the American Civil War was an argument between family members who came to blows over slavery and its related political arguments. The idea that there were two different societies which could only be held together by the subjugation of one by the other did not make sense to veterans of two great nationalistic wars.

This collection of letters illuminates the deep differences between the North and South. Geary judged that “the curse of God seems to follow its (slavery) every trace . . .” He saw the people of the South as ignorant and backward and remarked frequently upon the immense devastation of war upon the land. Geary’s motivation in carrying war into the South is a good example of how warfare becomes very personal and how mundane events determine the patriotism of soldiers.

Geary complained if he did not have proper paper to write home daily and criticized mail delivery when it took two weeks to get letters from the front to his wife in Pennsylvania. While Geary was invested at Chattanooga he mentioned the shortage of supplies, but normally he and his troops ate well, dressed well, travelled well, and had more than adequate supply lines while they destroyed the lives and property of the people of the South.

These letters illuminate the cause that drove General Geary. John White Geary saw the war as a vocational choice. His correspondence reveals his concern for personal advancement in the military and includes occasional references to political aspirations. Geary’s self-promotion distinguishes his letters and is noted by the author and reviewers.

Geary made reference to creating a free land, but did not mention African Americans as people or citizens. As we enter the 21st century the question of the motivation of the Northern soldier helps us to understand the American Civil War. When Geary’s son was killed in action, he fought for a measure of vengeance and joined Sherman to leave their line of march “as though all the locusts of Egypt had been upon it.”

There is probably no question that the North would have abandoned the war if its towns, farms and families suffered the invasion and devastation visited upon the South. In the South the daily correspondence Geary enjoyed with his wife was impossible. While Geary was asking his wife about her outing to the Philadelphia fair and the remodelling of their new farm, he was crushing Atlanta and burning his way to Savannah.

John White Geary reflects America in his dogged materialism and belief that his side represents what is right because he is an agent of material progress. Every event of the war confirmed this conclusion to Geary, as he and the North experienced abundant material prosperity while the South was ground into poverty.

This work is a valuable addition to Civil War literature because it presents the actual thoughts and actions of a military and political leader at the crises point in American history.

University of Central Florida

M. EDWARD HUGHES

BOOK NOTES

Bison Books announces the reprint of Harriette Simpson's *Flowering of the Cumberland*, a rich history of pioneer life in the Cumberland River basin. Originally published in 1963, *Flowering* explores the struggles of frontier families fighting to create a community. In the book's new Introduction, historian Margaret Ripley Wolfe compares Simpson's social history of the middle Tennessee-southern Kentucky region to the work of well-known historians John Demos, Kenneth Lockridge, Philip Greven, and David Hackett Fischer. *Flowering of the Cumberland* is available in paperback from the University of Nebraska Press for \$17.95.

Also available in the Bison Books series is a reprint of Francis Parkman's 1885 work, *Pioneers of France in the New World*. *Pioneers* chronicles Spanish and French exploits in Florida, as well as the French colonial endeavors in Canada and Acadia. Among historians, Parkman is a controversial figure. Historian Francis Jennings, among others, has accused Parkman of "racism, bigotry, misogyny, authoritarianism, chauvinism, and upperclass arrogance." Yet historians and other scholars continue to read Parkman. In his Introduction, Dartmouth historian Colin G. Calloway suggests that "if . . . one accepts history as a cultural artifact, constructed and reconstructed by each society, each generation, and even each individual for their own purposes, then Parkman has a place and a value" (x). *Pioneers of France in the New World* is available in paperback from the University of Nebraska Press. The cost is \$20.00.

Orlando's Leu House by Julie Cole, with assistance from Wilbur Allaback and Laura Stewart, is a well-written, fast-moving story of the house and gardens at 1920 N. Forest Avenue, Orlando, which was deeded to the city in 1961 by Mr. and Mrs. Harry P. Leu. Beginning with the acquisition of the land on the south shore of Lake Rowena by the Mizells in the 1850s, Julie Cole tells the story of the evolution of the house from its frontier origins to the present edifice which stands in the immaculate gardens featuring hundreds of varieties of plants gathered by Harry and Mary Jane Leu in their travels around the world. In relating the story of the house and the people who lived in it, Ms. Cole does an excellent job of placing it in the context of the growth of Orlando, Orange County, and Cen-

tral Florida, from their frontier beginnings to the teeming metropolitan complex which now sprawls across several counties. A carefully selected series of photographs adds immeasurably to the narrative. *Orlando's Leu. House* may be purchased from the Leu House Gift Shop at 1920 N. Forest Avenue, Orlando, Florida, 32803. Telephone orders are accepted at (407) 246-2620. The book is also available at the Orange County Historical Museum, 812 E. Rollins Street, Orlando. The price is \$19.95 (hardback) and \$12.95 (soft cover).

Michelin Travel Publications, with whose European travel guides many readers are already familiar, has recently initiated a similar series on the states of the United States. The Florida guide has just been published. Its 28-page introduction includes a quick overview of the history of the state together with a comprehensive time line from prehistoric times to 1996. The text is organized into 12 regions of Florida and one on the Bahamas. The 12 regional sections are presented alphabetically beginning with the Everglades and ending with the Treasure Coast. Each section has its own historical introduction as do most of the cities, towns, and attractions within them. Illustrated by numerous detailed maps and carefully selected photographs, the Florida guide includes every place of interest in the state and provides detailed information about how to get there. The Michelin guide to Florida will be invaluable to tourists and newcomers, but it will also be of interest to those who are already familiar with the state. The guide is available in most bookstores and the price is \$20.00.

Anyone planning a visit to Alabama should be sure to consult *Seeing Historical Alabama: Fifteen Guided Tours*, by Virginia Van der Veer Hamilton and Jacqueline A. Matte. The tours are arranged geographically and the authors provide historical background on each location. Included on the tours are historic sites, including Civil Rights monuments, mansions, battlefields, festivals, Indian and pioneer settlements, and covered bridges. The guide book contains 30 maps, 170 illustrations, a glossary of architectural terms, and an appendix. Write the University of Alabama Press, Tuscaloosa, Alabama, 35487, for a copy. The price is \$19.95.

The Genealogical Society of Greater Miami has issued a reprint of the *1896 Directory, Guide and History of Dade County, Florida*. The Directory includes descriptions and histories of individual

towns, points of interest, lists of businesses and proprietors, as well as the original advertisements from the 1896 edition. The *Directory* also contains a helpful index. The *Directory* costs \$12.50 and may be obtained from the Genealogical Society of Greater Miami, P.O. Box 162905, Miami, FL, 33116-2905. Please include \$2.50 for shipping and handling.

The Give 'Em Hell Harry Series from the University of Missouri Press has issued a paperback edition of *Tumultuous Years: The Presidency of Harry S. Truman, 1949-1953* by Robert Donovan. According to editor Robert H. Ferrell, the series is "designed to keep available in reasonably priced paperback editions the best books that have been written about this remarkable man." First published in 1982 by W. W. Norton, this second of Donovan's two-volume study of Truman's administration examines the dramatic events that unfolded during the president's second term, including the "loss of China" and the Korean War. Donovan, who covered the White House during the Truman years as a correspondent for the *New York Herald Tribune*, delivers a fast-paced narrative of the public life one of this century's most captivating political figures. The cost of the paperback is \$19.95. For a copy, write the University of Missouri Press, 2910 LeMone Boulevard, Columbia, MO 65201.

Southwest Florida's Wetland Wilderness: Big Cypress Swamp and the Ten Thousand Islands is a small book about a vast place. The lesser-known of south Florida's wetlands, the Big Cypress Watershed encompasses more than a million acres of interior wetlands. Natural history writer Jeff Ripple details the watershed's vegetation, climate, geology, and wildlife. Clyde Burtcher's dramatic black and white photographs capture the pristine and haunting beauty of one of Florida's last "wild and unspoiled" natural treasures. *Southwest Florida's Wetland Wilderness* is published by the University Press of Florida and is available in paperback for \$16.95.

David Chalmers' newly revised second edition of *And the Crooked Place Made Straight: The Struggle for Social Change in the 1960s* is now available from the Johns Hopkins Press as part of its American Moment series. Chalmers' compelling synthesis of the contagion of social change that swept the country in the 1960s was widely praised when it was first published in 1991. The book's updated concluding chapter considers the "underlying causes of the con-

fused anger of the 1990s.” David Chalmers is Distinguished Service Professor of History, Emeritus, at the University of Florida, Gainesville. The book is available from the Johns Hopkins University Press, 2715 N. Charles Street, Baltimore, Maryland, 21218-4319, \$13.95 paperback, \$38.50 hardcover.

Frederic Bancroft’s 1931 classic study, *Slave Trading in the Old South* has been reprinted by the University of South Carolina Press as part of its Southern Classics Series. Drawing on correspondence with former slave traders and former slaves, Bancroft’s pathbreaking book seriously undermined U. B. Phillips’ generally accepted thesis of benign masters and loyal slaves. The new Introduction by University of Liverpool professor Michael Tadman includes an interesting analysis of the historiography of the domestic slave trade. *Slave Trading in the Old South* is available in paperback for \$18.95. For more information, contact the University of South Carolina Press at (803) 777-2021.

Down along the banks of the Neches River of East Texas lived the Dog People, and I. C. Eason was their king. Fiercely independent folk, so-named because of their ancestral hunting methods using a locally bred dog to run down game, the Dog People lived a quiet life apart from the outside world. That is, until the timber companies and environmentalists began to encroach on the land the Dog People had occupied (but had not legally owned) for generations. *King of the Dog People: The Stories of I. C. Eason* is a collection of Eason’s stories (as told to photographer Blair Pittman) about life on the “bottom.” Richly illustrated with Pittman’s photographs, *King of the Dog People* is available from the University of North Texas Press for \$24.95. For information, write P.O. Box 13856, Denton, TX 76203.