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Book Reviews

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BOOK REVIEWS

The Hasinai: Southern Caddoans As Seen by the Earliest Europeans, Herbert Eugene Bolton and Russell M. Magnaghi, editor (University of Oklahoma Press, 4100 28th Ave NW, Norman, OK 73069) 1987. Reprint. 2002. Contents. Illus. Biblio. Index. P. 194. \$14.95. Paperback.

This paperback edition of an H. E. Bolton monograph written more than ninety years ago provides students of East Texas history with an attractive, affordable, and useful study of the region's indigenous peoples. Long recognized as a giant among historians of the Spanish Borderlands, Bolton had a keen interest in what modern practitioners would call ethnohistory. *The Hasinai* reflects both his command of the archival sources and his understanding of anthropology. The book explores the cultural history of the western Caddoan tribes commonly known as the Hasinai through the lens of historical and ethnological scholarship. He synthesizes seventeenth- and eighteenth-century documentary materials with the results of ethnographic observations compiled under the auspices of the Smithsonian Institution's Bureau of American Ethnology. Bolton's approach to describing Caddoan material culture, social structure, political economy, and belief systems may seem old-fashioned to some modern readers, but when it was assembled in 1906-1908 this was an ambitious, cross-disciplinary experiment in writing about American Indians in the context of regional culture history.

Russell M. Magnaghi's introduction provides a thoughtful overview of Bolton's career and the genesis of the present work, which was published in hardcover in 1987. Overall, the editor applies a light hand, though in this reviewer's judgment he was remiss in not including updated reference citations for the body of Caddoan ethnohistory which has built upon the foundation laid by Bolton and his students. Though a few of Bolton's interpretations are academically obsolete, *The Hasinai* presents a wealth of data gleaned from primary sources and should take its place alongside the classic work by his contemporary John R. Swanton of the Smithsonian, whose *Source Material on the History and Ethnology of the Caddo Indians*, first published in 1942, is also now available in a paperback edition published in 1996 by the University of Oklahoma Press.

Robert C. Vogel
New Brighton, Minnesota

The Diary of Juan Dominguez de Mendoza's Expedition into Texas (1683-1684), Brian Imhoff, editor (William P. Clements Center, SMU, P.O. Box 750176, Dallas, TX 75275-0176) 2002. Contents. Commentary. Appendix. Map. P. 259. \$24.50 +\$4.50 s/h. Paperback.

The William P. Clements Center for Southwest Studies at Southern Methodist University is to be commended for the publication of this critical edition of the original Spanish text of the Mendoza expedition journal, with an introduction, copious philological notes, and commentary in English by Professor Brian Imhoff of Texas A & M University.

On the orders of the Governor of New Mexico, Captain Juan Dominguez de Mendoza led a party of Spanish soldiers and Indians into what is now west-central Texas between December 1683 and July 1684. The purpose of the entrada was to reassert royal authority in the El Paso and La Junta regions and to evaluate the prospects for establishing missions among the Jumano Indians. The expedition journal, part of which was published in English translation by Herbert E. Bolton in 1916, contains useful descriptions of the country and its native inhabitants, including a remarkable account of buffalo hunting on the upper Colorado River. It also provides insights into aspects of frontier diplomacy and military affairs, particularly regarding the relations between the Spaniards and the Jumano Indian power broker Juan Sabeata, and with the Apaches and other Texas tribes.

In addition to Imhoff's annotated introduction and commentary, which represent important contributions to Spanish Borderlands historiography in their own right, this edition is further enhanced by the high-quality facsimile reproductions of two of the seven known manuscript copies of the Mendoza diary. Readers with a command of Spanish will value this contribution to the philology of the colonial period in Texas and New Mexico.

Robert C. Vogel
New Brighton, Minnesota

The Spanish Struggle for Justice in the Conquest of America, Lewis Hanke (Southern Methodist University Press, P.O. Box 750415, Dallas, TX 75275-0415) 1949. Reprint 2002. Contents. Illus. Notes. Biblio. Index. P. 246. \$16.95. Paperback.

Southern Methodist University Press is commended for publishing this handsome reprint of Lewis Hanke's classic work. It is still a critical spoke in the balance wheel of objectivity in understanding the colonial history of the Americas. As Peter Bakewell and Susan Scafidi point out in a new introduction, there is a wide-spread belief that "in comparison with other

European colonial powers . . . , Spain acted with unusual and extreme cruelty towards the native people of the regions it occupied and governed” [p. xiii] – the so-called “Black Legend.”

In historical controversies of this complexity, no one can attain complete objectivity, as Hanke himself acknowledged. However, if one reads this book carefully, it becomes apparent that the “Black Legend” ought to be shaded toward grey. Spain permitted and *encouraged* debate over the justice of its actions while carving out a colonial empire in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. It permitted every person in its colonies from the highest officials to the lowest peasant to write directly to the crown, and they did so by the thousands. It interrupted all further conquests while debating the justice of subduing largely defenseless people in 1550–1551. It committed itself to varying experiments in Indian policy. In all, Spain tried four different approaches: Could Indians learn to live like Christian Spaniards? could the New World be colonized peacefully with farmers? could Roman Catholicism be preached by peaceful means alone? and could the *encomienda* system (which combined with European diseases wiped out some three million Indian lives in the Caribbean) be abolished on the mainland?

The volume under review was the first of more than forty books compiled, edited, or written by Lewis Hanke. He taught many years at the University of Texas and became president of the American Historical Association in 1974. Long out of print in both hardback and paper editions, this volume is now available at an affordable price. Following the index, there is a previously unpublished “Personal and Professional Reminiscence by the author” on the development of Latin American history in the United States from 1923 to 1988.

Donald E. Chipman
University of North Texas

Spain in the Southwest: A Narrative History of Colonial New Mexico, Arizona, Texas, and California, John L. Kessell (University of Oklahoma Press, 4100 28th Ave. NW, Norman, OK 73069-8218) 2002. Contents. Illus. Notes. Works Cited. Index. P. 462. \$45.00. Hardcover.

Whereas historians often confine their work within state lines or international borders, John Kessell takes a broader view. There are no such boundaries in this book. Spain’s colonial experience in the region comprised today of the four states of the subtitle is treated as a single, multi-pronged movement: communication and supply lines emanating from points in Mexico advanced northward along divergent paths, at different times and at varying

pace, “sometimes steadily, sometimes fitfully ... like the extended fingers of an upraised hand.” (pp. xiii, xiv).

In this elaborately illustrated book, the author draws his narrative from “secondary and published primary sources” (p. xvi) while skillfully pulling together the various threads that make up the fabric of the Hispanic Southwest. Adept at presenting human-interest episodes without letting them intrude, he provides penetrating character sketches of the Spanish and Indian notables, seldom sparing their less-admirable qualities or sexual meandering.

Quite naturally, the greater portion of the narrative focuses on New Mexico. Not only was it the first to draw the northward thrusts that later led to colonization, but its Hispanic population far exceeded the other entities, with numbers ten times greater than the best estimates for Arizona, Texas, or California when the Spanish period ended in 1821 (p. xiv). The four states making up the Western Borderlands appear in the subtitle in the general order of their appearance in the narrative, although some creep in ahead of schedule: for example, Texas with the passage of survivors of the Narváez and Soto expeditions and California with the early coastal voyages and the Manila galleons.

With an eye for the dramatic, Kessell captures the flavor of the three-pronged movement from early exploration until Spain lost its North American territory by revolution and negotiation and its successor – Mexico – lost half its territory to the United States by the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. In bringing forth this broad overview, the author surely wrestled with the problem of selection; not every important episode could be included. Yet, in this reviewer’s opinion, he deserves high marks for his choices.

Robert S. Weddle
Bonham, Texas

The Art and Architecture of the Texas Missions, Jacinto Quirarte (University of Texas Press, P.O. Box 7819, Austin, Texas 78713-7819), 2002. Contents. Appendices. Glossary. Biblio. Color & B&W Illus. Maps. Index. P. 241. \$60.00. Hardcover.

The University of Texas Press and Jacinto Quirarte, professor emeritus of the history of art and criticism at UT San Antonio, have produced a handsome volume on an intriguing topic. A good mix of historic photos and recent images, drawings and illustrations from a variety of scholars, a brief color section (featuring some of the amazing 1930s mission color-scheme conjectures of Ernst Schuchard), a glossary, and a bibliography are attractive and useful to students of the Spanish missions of San Antonio and Goliad.

However, little information is provided on Spanish religious artisanship in the rest of the state, despite the title, and two maps show only the general locations of the Spanish mantel once spread wide across present Texas.

Quirarte gathered initial material for this work early in the 1980s while directing a project for the National Park Service (NPS) “on the decorative and applied arts at the four San Antonio missions which comprise the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park” (p. ix). He and colleagues at UTSA’s now-defunct Research Center for the Arts translated eighteenth-century Spanish documents, pieced together nineteenth-century Anglo chronicles, photographed the present buildings, and drew heavily upon previous works by various archeologists and architects who studied the San Antonio and Goliad missions in the mid-to-late twentieth century.

The artistic components of the San Antonio buildings are detailed through several excellent original illustrations of altar configurations and devotional image placements. For those who admire the awesome interior spaces of these buildings but have little background in Catholic ritual and symbolism, this work may be satisfying. Architectural analysis and in-depth historical context, by contrast, are either missing or heavily reliant on outdated conjectures. The works of Curtis Tunnell, Mardith Schuetz, Gene George, Jack Eaton, and others are largely ignored, and little property-ownership history is presented on the missions, paramount to understanding their fates in the aftermaths of secularization (1790s) and the Texas Revolution (1836). The shallow architectural context indicates that important sources were neither re-studied nor consulted anew.

Mission Espiritu Santo, today a State Historic Site outside Goliad, is the only mission that receives the same full-chapter treatment as the five San Antonio complexes. Yet the author apparently doesn’t realize that the 1749 Espiritu Santo church had so disintegrated by the 1930s that the first New Deal workers there reconstructed walls of the nearby former granary, thinking they had resurrected the sanctuary. Only with arrival of the National Park Service (given no credit here) in 1935, with a sizeable budget for archeologists, engineers and architects – and the Civilian Conservation Corps as a labor force – did the state park builders discover the substantial church foundations elsewhere. Therefore, descriptive statements such as “[v]ery few portions of the [church’s entry] portal are original,” and “[t]he darker stone of the original architectural details is seen in portions of the entablature” (p. 170), are misleading since the entire building is a 1930s conjectural reconstruction.

Fresh and forward-moving analysis is badly needed before another book of this title attempts to explain the world-class architecture of the San Antonio missions. And obviously the amazing El Paso buildings (Isleta, Socorro, and the presidio chapel at San Elizario) largely absent here, plus archeological evidence of others including those in East Texas, deserve attention that matches “the Texas Missions” title. The author simply states that “[t]he

missions in west Texas and east Texas were reconstructed” (p. 189), and relegates them to a brief historical summary. Finally, the publisher could have provided a decent overlay roadmap or two, and current mission-management contact information to help readers actually find these wonderful, and thankfully very public, places.

James Wright Steely
Phoenix, Arizona

Crisis in the Southwest: The United States, Mexico, and the Struggle over Texas, Richard Bruce Winders (SR Books, 104 Greenhill Ave, Wilmington, DE 19805-1897) 2002. Contents. Maps. Illus. Essay. Index. P.197. \$60.00. Hardcover. \$17.95. Paperback.

American historians have traditionally dealt with the struggle for the Southwest as separate incidents spanning the nearly sixty years between the Louisiana Purchase in 1803 and the secession of Texas from the Union in 1861. Mexican historians have tended to treat the same period as one long, connected story, themed around the loss of Mexico’s northern territories to the United States.

Bruce Winders’ work follows the track taken by Mexican historians in an attempt to connect the series of events that led to clashes between the two rival nations over the Southwest and, in particular, Texas. Readers can now view the entire struggle in a single, well-written volume that combines the social, cultural, political, and military histories of both sides. Many casual readers of the several popular histories of this period will be introduced to several key players and events that may have been skipped over in previous works.

The author also puts events in perspective. Consequently, the battle for the Alamo, the most famous event of the period, occupies but a paragraph while the lesser-known Santa Fe expedition is given over a page. Not surprisingly, the Mexican War, about which the author has written previous volumes, gets more attention than the Texas Revolution. But in his defense, the 1846-48 war with Mexico did have more far-reaching consequences than the 1835-1836 struggle for Texas independence. Oddly enough, the publisher elected to use a well-known painting of the battle of the Alamo for the cover jacket, which in its own way reinforces those pop-culture aspects of the subject that the author’s text skillfully puts into perspective.

Impressive at the end of the work is the author’s bibliographical essay. Not only does it reinforce his well-documented footnotes, but allows the reader an updated source list of published materials, including several from

Mexican sources. This little volume is a welcome addition to the field and should be one to which instructors send their students for the bigger picture.

Kevin R. Young
Buffalo Gap Historic Village

The Taking of Texas: A Documentary History, Franklin Madis (Eakin Press, P.O. Box 90159, Austin, Texas 78709-0159) 2002. Contents. Biblio. Notes. Index. P. 318 \$24.95. Paperback.

Finding original Texana is becoming increasingly difficult, but Franklin Madis – a long-time collector of original manuscripts – has assembled in *The Taking of Texas* a remarkable and important array of materials that help us understand the early conflicts between Mexico and Texas.

Madis bases his book on the theory that after Mexico won its independence from Spain, Mexico was unable to retain its territory north of the Rio Grande and that the United States pursued an opportunity to take it with help from Texas revolutionaries.

While the theory is not new, Madis offers a significant array of letters, official documents, and other materials to support it.

Madis draws upon an impressive array of documents, some dating back to the early 1800s, to paint a picture of many of the political and military events that took place in the 1830s, when Texas won its independence from Mexico, and in the 1840s when the United States invaded Mexico.

Madis, a Wisconsin farm boy who became a successful Texas businessman, has been a collector of historical manuscripts, documents, and books for more than forty years.

In the view of some historians, *The Taking of Texas* represents the best in original Texana since John Jenkins published *Papers of the Texas Revolution*.

Bob Bowman
Lufkin, Texas

A Revolution Remembered: The Memoirs and Selected Correspondence of Juan N. Seguin, Jesus F. de la Teja, editor (Texas State Historical Association, 2.306 Sid Richardson Hall, University of Texas, Austin, TX 78712) 2002. Contents. Illus. Biblio. Appendices. Index. P. 216. \$19.95. Paperback.

The Texas State Historical Association has done every student of Texas history a service by reprinting Frank de la Teja's *A Revolution Remembered*, first published by the State House Press in 1991. This book's value is greater than the sum of its many parts, which include: a lengthy and extensively documented biographical sketch of Juan N. Seguin and his father, Erasmo; an edited and annotated version of the younger Seguin's *Personal Memoirs*; and seventy-three revealing documents, most written by Juan Seguin himself, dating from 1833 to 1890.

It might appear strange that the first and longest of these documents is the unedited text of Seguin's memoirs, following hard upon the heavily annotated version of the same document, but this brilliant stroke allows readers—many of whom will be undergraduates under duress – to encounter Seguin's voice, as published in translation in San Antonio in 1858, without the distraction of scholarly quibbles and explanations.

Seguin's memoirs were difficult to find in print when *A Revolution Remembered* appeared in 1991, and discussions of his role in the Texas Revolution were almost as rare. De la Teja's "Introduction to the Second Edition" points out, with admirable modesty, how firmly Seguin and the Tejanos have moved to the center of the historiography of the revolt in the past ten years. With luck, the same salutary development will soon spread to the historical literature of the Texas Republic, because Juan Seguin's triumphs and tribulations between 1836 and 1846 can provide valuable insights into what is arguably the most important decade in the Texan past. This essential book has blazed the trail.

James E. Crisp
North Carolina State University

Her Act and Deed: Women's Lives in a Rural Southern County, 1837-1873, Angela Boswell (Texas A&M University Press, 4354 TAMU, College Station, TX 77843-4354) 2001. Contents. Tables. Epilogue. Appendices. Biblio. Notes. Index. P. 190. \$29.95. Hardcover.

They were individuals. Essentially, this is the conclusion that Angela Boswell reaches after her extensive survey of the lives of Colorado County women during the 1800s. In itself, this might not surprise many people, since

residents of Texas at the time were often noted for their spirit, drive, and individualism. One should never take anything for granted concerning women in history, however, and indeed, Boswell has done her homework. She cites family papers, wills, deeds, and voluminous additional local, state, and national sources to support her conclusions.

Boswell has succeeded in analyzing how women in Texas during the 1800s dealt with their precarious legal standing in various situations, including marriage, widowhood, and divorce. She tabulates her sources and presents her findings in a number of clear, concise tables. For all its statistics, *Her Act and Deed* is what some would call "a good read." Boswell paints pictures of individual Colorado County women so vividly that I could easily visualize the "inconsolable" widow, Laura McNeill, taking to the wearing of a knife and gun while she set about straightening out her late husband's financial affairs (pp. 34-36).

One rather surprising aspect of *Her Act and Deed* is the generous attention paid to the experiences of African American women. The lives of these women sometimes receive only abbreviated treatment, with the caveat that extant sources are too scarce to provide a true accounting. Boswell, however, appears willing to go the extra mile to provide us with a clearer view of the lives of this very important group of women.

With thirty-eight pages of notes and an extensive bibliography, *Her Act and Deed: Women's Lives in a Rural Southern County, 1837-1873* serves as an excellent reference for anyone delving into the social and economic lives of Texas women in the 1800s. This third entry in the Sam Rayburn Series on Rural Life adds a new element to the Texas A&M-Commerce series, whose first two entries were "Brushmen and Vigilantes" and "Lone Star Picture Show." I think Mr. Sam would be proud.

Janet Brantley
Texarkana College

Adobe Walls: The History and Archeology of the 1874 Trading Post, T. Lindsay Baker and Billy R. Harrison (Texas A&M University Press, 4354 TAMU, College Station, TX 77843-4354) 2001. Reprint 1986. Contents. Maps. Tables. Notes. Biblio. Index. Illus. P. 413. \$29.95. Paperback. \$49.95. Hardcover.

This is a historical account of the June 27, 1874, battle between 700 renegade southern Plains Indians and twenty-eight buffalo hunters sheltered at a trading post called Adobe Walls, located in the Texas Panhandle. The site is approximately twenty-seven miles north and east of the present-day city of

Stinnett, Texas. The first shot fired in the 1874 Red River War occurred here, and it was here that the decline of the southern Plains Indians commenced.

Early in the morning of June 27, 1874, the Indians attacked the Walls. Motivated by the slaughter of the great buffalo herds, Comanche medicine man Isatai incited the attack. He sermonized about his meeting with the Great Spirit, who told him that if the Indians killed all the buffalo hunters the buffalo herds would be replenished. After several days of intense fighting, the badly beaten Indians retired, leaving some thirty-five of their dead behind. The Adobe Walls inhabitants suffered four dead.

This history of Adobe Walls is more than a battle record. It is also an archeological site record. Baker and Harrison examine, evaluate, and describe more than seventy significant articles found at the site as well as many more mundane items. These include everything from clothing to equipment such as firearms, cartridges, leather working tools, transportation accessories, tobacco, coins, marbles, and more.

At the time they wrote this book, T. Lindsay Baker was Curator of History at the Fort Worth Museum of History and Billy R. Harrison was Curator of Archaeology at the Panhandle Plains Historical Museum in Canyon, Texas. Their professional skills are exceptional and complement each other well.

William J. Tudor
Dallas, Texas

Lone Star Justice: The First Century of the Texas Rangers, Robert M. Utley (Oxford University Press, 198 Madison Ave, New York, NY 10016-4314) 2002. Contents. Illus. Notes. Maps. Sources. Index. P. 370. \$30. Hardcover.

For more than seventy-five years Texas historians have contemplated a revision of Walter Prescott Webb's *The Texas Rangers: A Century of Frontier Defense*. For whatever reasons, whether such a task was too time consuming or Webb's work too masterful, no one attempted a full examination of this legendary organization. But such is no longer the case. After four years of thorough research Robert Utley, a distinguished Western historian, has attempted "to recapture the Texas Rangers as they were," both their "talents and shortcomings" (p. ix).

Utley has categorized the Rangers during their first century of operations as encompassing two different kinds of men. From 1823 until 1874 they were citizen soldiers, intent upon protecting Anglo-American settlers either from Mexican incursions or from Indian marauders. Then from 1874 until 1910, at

the behest of the Texas legislature, they became a permanent or semi-permanent military force that enforced the laws of the state against lawless breeds of men who were attracted to Texas after the Civil War.

In this work on the first century of the Texas Rangers both similarities and differences are readily apparent to those historians who "sat at the feet" of Walter Webb. Much like Webb, Utley follows the story patterns and the chronological activities of the Rangers to 1910, which is surely a testament to Webb's scholarship and the reasons that discouraged others from writing a complete history of the Rangers. Yet unlike Webb, Utley has approached the Rangers in a more clinical manner. After examining the actions of the Rangers during their first century of existence, he has been more critical of the organization and its individual members. Utley concludes, however, that "as citizen soldiers and Old West lawmen, the Texas Rangers left an indelible mark on history. As legendary heroes and legendary knaves, they left an indelible mark on human minds the world over. They fully merit their niche in the annals of Texas and the nation" (p. 302).

This reviewer awaits, with anticipation, the second and concluding volume of Utley's treatment of the Texas Rangers.

Ben Procter
Texas Christian University

Bound for Santa Fe: The Road to New Mexico and the American Conquest, 1806-1848, Stephen G. Hyslop (University of Oklahoma Press, 4100 28th Ave NW, Norman, OK 73069) 2002. Contents. Map. Illus. Notes. Biblio. Index. P. 514. \$34.95. Hardcover.

The Santa Fe Trail is surrounded by romance to the point that it is sometimes easy to forget the importance it played in the development of the United States. Stephen G. Hyslop reminds readers of the trail's significance in his new book, *Bound for Santa Fe*.

Hyslop examines the history of the trail from Captain Zebulon M. Pike's early expedition to the region through its role in bringing General Stephen W. Kearny and the Army of the West to New Mexico. The author's grand scope surpasses what most other writers have done on the subject and his work seriously challenges existing studies on the Santa Fe Trail.

Hyslop draws upon literature produced by the men and women who crossed the trail. His work is arranged in a logical sequence, grouping accounts into chapters that tell about preparing for the journey in Missouri, making the trek across the mountains and plains, and reaching the end of the trail at Santa Fe. Some may criticize the author for failing to use manuscript sources but he

makes good use of the wealth of printed journals, diaries, and letters.

The book's main strength is that it provides the reader with a "big picture" view of the Santa Fe Trail that places it in the context of westward expansion. Thus, *Bound for Santa Fe* is the type of work with which all serious students of American history should be familiar. Although it makes allusions to the international significance of the trail, it is less successful in forcefully making the point that the Santa Fe Trail is a North American story, something equally important to Mexico's past and to that of the United States. Even so, Hyslop has produced a useful work on the Santa Fe Trail that should stand the test of time.

Bruce Winders
San Antonio, Texas

The Texas Republic and the Mormon Kingdom of God, Michael Scott Van Wagenen (Texas A&M University Press, 4354 TAMU, College Station, TX 77843-4354) 2002. Contents. Illus. Appendices. Maps. Notes. Biblio. Photo Credits. P. 117. \$18.95. Hardcover.

Michael Scott Van Wagenen's *The Texas Republic and the Mormon Kingdom of God* examines Joseph Smith's negotiations with Sam Houston to move the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (LDS or the Mormons) from Illinois to Texas in 1844. Smith sent an ambassador to the Republic that spring to talk with Houston. Mormon records indicate that Houston agreed to sell land between the Nueces and Rio Grande rivers to the church. This required the approval of the Texas Congress when it met in the fall.

In June, death came to Joseph Smith on a warm, muggy afternoon at a Carthage jail in Illinois. Brigham Young, eventual successor to the dead prophet's mantle, took the LDS instead to the Rocky Mountains. The rest is history – a letter of apology was sent to Houston, Lyman Wight took a small group of anti-Brighamite polygamous followers to the Republic and out of mainstream Mormonism, and Joseph Smith's plans for Texas moldered with him in his grave.

Van Wagenen brings an advanced level of inquiry, analysis, and originality to this subject. But the work remains limited for several reasons. Many sources are secondary, mostly from Mormon records. Many others pertaining to the Mormon-Texas negotiations are denied to researchers by current LDS policy. Additionally, Van Wagenen did not use original records of the Republic and its makers and breakers.

The book is significant for several reasons. Van Wagenen crafts a well-

written, entertaining story. It opens our understanding to the fact that the Mormon Church nearly came to the Lone Star Republic in 1844 rather than to its ultimate destiny in the Rocky Mountains. It alerts Texas historians to the valuable contributions of the Lyman Wight Colony on the Lone Star frontier, as well as the linkage of Sam Houston as a friend of the LDS before the Civil War. For instance, the Texas statesman befriended Mormon causes and was a useful conduit and beneficial influence for ending the Utah War of 1857-1858

This is a book professional historians and interested historians of Texana and Mormona will want to possess.

Melvin C. Johnson
Angelina College

La Gran Linea: Mapping the United States—Mexico Boundary, 1849-1857, Paula Rebert (University of Texas Press, Box 7819, Austin, TX 78713-7819) 2001. Contents. Illus. Maps. Notes. Appendix. Biblio. Index. P. 259. \$45.00. Hardcover. \$22.95. Paperback.

Paula Rebert has revised a doctoral dissertation into a detailed account of the surveying and mapping of the United States-Mexico boundary between 1849 and 1857. In the author's words, "I have thought of my work as a contribution to the history of cartography."

In six chapters, she details the field surveys, the cooperation of the United States and Mexico boundary commissions, and the process of mapping this international boundary with historical detail. The use of extensive research from the journals, field notes, and records of both boundary commissions provide a detailed documentary for the survey and mapping of this boundary.

The mapping of this boundary will intrigue surveyors and cartographers with technical aspects of the geodetic and topographic surveys conducted by the United States and Mexico. Historians will find interest in the relationship between the individual commissioners and service to their assigned tasks.

Original Spanish-language sources were used in research, with English translations provided by the author. The text includes numerous illustrations made from photographs of the original United States and Mexican maps. The process of establishing and defining this international boundary required several years and numerous compromises. The chapter format describing these activities requires the recall of persons and events for continuity. This is a book that should not be suspended for reading in segments. Understanding and comprehension may require additional study.

This book provides a detailed study, with an uncommon insight, for those interested in surveying, mapping, and the history of the Rio Grande River, early Texas, New Mexico, and California.

Johnny Ingram, PE/RPLS
Jefferson, Texas

While God is Marching On: The Religious World of Civil War Soldiers, Steven E. Woodworth (University Press of Kansas, 2501 West 15th Street, Lawrence, KS 66049-3905) 2001. Contents. Notes. Bibliography. Index. P. 394. \$29.95. Hardcover.

While most modern historians shy away from writing about the role religion plays in people's lives, Steven E. Woodworth accepts the challenge of exploring this vital topic. Based upon extensive research into diaries, private letters, and published reminiscences of Union and Confederate soldiers, Woodworth demonstrates that the common Civil War soldiers had strong Christian beliefs which shaped their character and actions. There were also some who were indifferent to, or rebellious against, the Christian religion, but they also found themselves also influenced by the Christian world view.

Since Christian doctrines always had been important in American life, it was not surprising the soldiers' and their relatives' letters revealed that both sides adhered to the same beliefs. How, then, could numbers of a devout nation slaughter each other? Both warring parties believed that God was on their side and that He would give the victory to their just cause, working out His purpose for their lives. As millions marched off to war, they found comfort in the belief that if they had accepted Jesus Christ as Savior and they would have eternal life in heaven, thereby avoiding an eternal hell.

Believing the Bible to be the inspired Word of God, soldiers wrote that reading it, saying prayers, listening to sermons, and, equally important, parental expectations kept them from succumbing to the temptations of gambling, swearing, promiscuity, and excessive drinking generally found in army camps. The horrors of war coincided with a growing religious awakening in both armies. The revival in army camps began in 1862 and increased with daily services, with or without a chaplain, through the active campaigning of 1865. Woodworth concluded that except for the army revivals, the Confederacy's defeat would have caused the Southern church to suffer greatly. For the victorious North, the war was vindication and continuation of "the original American vision of a society ordered according to divine principles." Not only had slavery ended and the Union had been saved but also the fundamental foundation of religious beliefs remained unchanged.

Woodworth gave an impressive explanation of the continued Southern refusal to see the war as God's way of removing slavery. Raised with slavery as a "given" in the South, it was never questioned. Instead, they believed that the humiliation of the Confederacy came because of individual sins.

The book was well written and presented a balanced summary of the essential importance of the Christian faith to Civil War soldiers.

Priscilla Benham
North Harris College

The Civil War In West Texas And New Mexico: The Lost Letterbook of Brigadier General Henry Hopkins Sibley, John P. Wilson and Jerry Thompson, editors (Texas Western Press, University of Texas Press at El Paso, El Paso, TX 79968-0633) 2001. Intro. Letters. Notes. Index. Photo Credits. P. 193. \$18. Paperback.

John P. Wilson and Jerry Thompson provide a valuable service with the publication of *The Civil War in West Texas and New Mexico*. The work is a valuable supplement to others investigating the Confederacy's effort to conquer the American Southwest in 1861 and 1862. It provides insight into the organizational and management issues with which General Sibley was confronted and had to sort out while forming and maintaining his army.

Both historians have competently researched the subject. The value of this work rests on three points: primary source material, a record of military organization and maintenance, and personalities. First, only eight of the individual 147 letters that appear in the work were published in the *Official Records*. Second, the letterbook reveals Sibley's organization of his army, the appointment of many of its officers, and his attempt to support it far from its bases in San Antonio and Austin. And third, the book identifies nearly 150 individuals, some of fame and others barely recognized, who participated in the campaign.

The work does not provide exciting reading, but it does demonstrate how the Army operated and why it failed. The invasion was forced back not by the failure of Confederate arms but rather because Sibley and his subordinates could not provide the necessary logistical support. *The Civil War in West Texas and New Mexico* is a valuable companion to works that examine the operations and battles of this campaign, such as Donald Frazier's *Blood and Treasure* and Jerry Thompson's *Civil War in the Southwest*. Both interested laymen and professional historians alike will profit by having this work on their shelves.

Melvin C. Johnson
Angelina College

Queen of the Confederacy: The Innocent Deceits of Lucy Holcombe Pickens, Elizabeth Wittenmyer Lewis (University of North Texas Press, P.O. Box 311336, Denton, TX 75203-1336) 2002. Contents. Illus. Appendices. Notes. Biblio. Index. P. 253. \$24.95. Hardcover.

Elizabeth Wittenmyer Lewis has skillfully brought to life one of the South's most interesting women, Lucy Holcombe Pickens, wife of Francis Wilkinson Pickens, governor of South Carolina on the eve of the Civil War. Using published sources, family letters, and other documents from the time period, Lewis paints a portrait of a Southern belle who "married the right man" and became a woman of wealth and prestige in the Confederacy.

The story begins with Lucy's and her sister, Anna's, early life in Tennessee, and follows them through a move to Texas when Lucy was seventeen, mentioning Shreveport, Louisiana, Caddo Lake, Jefferson, and Marshall, Texas. Lucy learned how to flirt with a purpose in Texas, landing a prized husband, Francis W. Pickens, who had political aspirations and family influence, his father having been minister to Russia for a time. Lewis writes that Lucy encouraged her husband to accept a diplomatic mission to St. Petersburg, where she captivated Tsar Alexander II with her beauty and charm. When they returned to the United States, Pickens became governor of South Carolina and Lucy became First Lady of the first state to secede from the Union.

Lucy's political interests involved her in filibustering with General Narcisco Lopez and the ill-fated Bahía Honda Expedition, campaigning for Millard Fillmore's presidency, and reviewing the troops in the Holcombe Legion, a South Carolina group of volunteers who named their unit after her in honor of her selling some of the jewels Tsar Alexander II gave her to help outfit Confederate troops. Lucy Holcombe Pickens was flirtatious, bold, political, and never submissive. A truly wonderful Civil War woman whom Elizabeth Wittenmyer Lewis has captured well.

Beverly Rowe
Texarkana College

Texas in the Confederacy: An Experiment in Nation Building, Clayton E. Jewett (University of Missouri Press, 2910 LeMone Blvd, Columbia, MO 65201) 2002. Contents. Tables. Appendices. Note. Biblio. Index. P. 310. \$37.50. Hardcover.

Until recently Civil War scholars believed that after secession Southerners rallied behind their national government and supported strong central state governments. These political units, so the argument suggested,

marched hand in hand and hoped to create a new nation based upon the culture, economics, and politics of slavery. Defeat primarily occurred due to Union military might, not failed nation building. Clayton E. Jewett in *Texas in the Confederacy* challenges these assumptions.

Jewett consulted many conventional sources and extracted data from this research. He then used regression analysis to reexamine support for secession, military enlistment, the Ninth Texas Legislature, and the Tenth Texas Legislature. He determined that "The pattern of Texas politics and the actions of citizens from the Lone Star State reveal that Texas defined, established, secured, and implemented a political and economic identity separate from that of other Confederate states" (p.237). Jewett's calculations suggested that Texans never became an integral part of the Confederate's process of nation building. Texans believed that the Confederate government neglected western interest and promoted national policies that hindered the economic interest of most Texans. Between 1861 and 1865, the author concluded, "Texas existed on its own in the Confederacy" (p.241).

If the reader believes that numbers never lie, you will find the author's arguments intriguing. If the reader's mathematical background is somewhat limited, the charts, maps, and statistical tables contained in this book will confuse and overwhelm. Experts in Texas Civil War history may enjoy this book. The general reader will not.

Donald Willett
Texas A&M University at Galveston

William Pitt Ballinger: Texas Lawyer, Southern Statesman, 1825-1888, John Anthony Moretta (Texas State Historical Association, 2.306 Sid Richardson Hall, The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX 78712) 2000. Biblio. Notes. Index. Illus. P. 331. \$29.95. Hardcover.

Historians have used William Pitt Ballinger's diary for decades as an insightful source for observations about nineteenth-century America. In 1976, legal historian Maxwell Bloomfield pointed out in *American Lawyers in a Changing Society* the need for a full-scale, scholarly biography of the noted Galveston lawyer. With publication of John Anthony Moretta's well-written and carefully researched study, Ballinger has received his due.

Ballinger arrived in Texas in 1843 at the age of fifteen. Originally from Kentucky, the youth suffered debilitating asthma attacks that his family hoped would be relieved in the South. Ballinger studied law with his uncle James Love and was admitted to the bar in Galveston in 1846, shortly after returning from brief service in the Mexican War. In the years that followed, Ballinger

became one of the leading attorneys in Texas, especially in the field of realty law. In his best known case he successfully defended the Galveston Wharf and Cotton Press Company's title claim to the island's waterfront flats.

Ballinger strongly opposed secession but when Texas left the union in 1861 he became a receiver of alien property and under the Confederate Sequestration Act oversaw the confiscation at least \$2 million dollars worth of Union-owned assets. When the war ended, Ballinger resumed his law practice and had great success as a railroad attorney. After a full and prosperous life, he died in January 1888.

The book is well written and carefully researched. Moretta uses a variety of secondary works and primary sources, especially from collections at the Rosenberg Library in Galveston, the Center for American History at the University of Texas at Austin, and the Houston Metropolitan Research Center. He has produced a book worthy of his subject.

Ken Stevens
Texas Christian University

Civil War In The Southwest: Recollections Of The Sibley Brigade, Jerry Thompson, editor (Texas A&M University Press, 4354 TAMU, College Station, TX 77843-4354) 2001. B&W Photos. Appendix. Biblio. Notes. Index. Maps. P. 195. \$24.95. Hardcover.

In 1861 and 1862 more than 2,000 Texas troops of the Confederacy, many from the piney woods and bayous of the Lone Star State, marched across deserts and over mountains in hopes of taking the gold fields of Colorado and the coasts of California. Jerry Thompson offers, in *Civil War In The Southwest: Recollections Of The Sibley Brigade*, a powerful edition of nearly twenty memoirs penned in their own words by men of the Sibley Brigade who tried, and failed, to conquer the Southwest for the Confederacy.

The veterans' stories once again demonstrate the disastrous dichotomy of the Confederate effort in the Southwest: their prowess in battle, their ineptness in the art of war. Although the Confederates won the major battles, the campaign failed because the combat leaders could not protect their supply column and the field commanders could not sustain the logistic effort required for success. Thompson notes the exaggeration and hyperbole in which the memorialists engaged as they retold, reconstructed, and revised the history of the campaign. The fact is that had Sibley's Brigade succeeded at Val Verde while protecting its supply train, the United States would have committed the necessary resources from the Upper Midwest, the Rocky Mountains, and the

Pacific Coast to protect the gold of Colorado and the fertile valleys and coasts of California.

The work is a valuable addition to the campaign's literature, most notably Donald S. Frazier's *Blood and Treasure: Confederate Empire in the Southwest* and *The Civil War in West Texas & New Mexico: The Lost Letterbook of Brigadier General Henry Hopkins Sibley*, co-edited by John P. Wilson and Jerry Thompson. This author has done yeoman service in providing a readable format. The Notes, Bibliography, and Index provide resources adequate for the historian's and interested layman's varied needs. The four maps that detail the campaign and battles are clear, concise, well-labeled, and add immensely to the reader's understanding of events. I recommend this work for the shelf of individuals interested in the Civil War and its impact on the Southwest.

Melvin C. Johnson
Nacogdoches, Texas

Texas Burial Sites of Civil War Notables: A Biographical and Pictorial Field Guide, James A. Mundie, Dean E. Letzring, Bruce S. Allardice, and John H. Luckey (Hill College Press, P.O. Box 619, Hillsboro, TX 76645) 2002. Contents. Biographies. Appendices. Biblio. Index. P. 414. Illus. \$30. +s/h \$3.75 +Tax. Hardcover.

Texas Burial Sites of Civil War Notables is a field guide to the burial sites of important Civil War leaders interred in Texas. James Mundie and his co-authors chose the men and women who appear in their study based on twelve different categories: generals of the Union and Confederate armies; colonels of the Union and Confederate armies; generals and colonels of Texas State Troops; high-ranking naval officers, Union and Confederate; Confederate cabinet members, governors, and congressmen; Civil War veterans and government officials for whom counties in Texas are named; Civil War veterans and government officials who served as governor of Texas, or in Congress; Civil War veterans who received the Medal of Honor for their wartime service; Civil War veterans who were authors, or who had a book written about them; longest living centenarians; delegates to the Texas Secession Convention, if they are buried in the same cemetery as someone who belongs in one of the other categories; and other notable or unique Civil War figures. Basically, the authors have attempted to "cover all persons, Union or Confederate, buried in Texas, of high civil or military rank during the war, as well as veterans who achieved importance or notoriety before or after the war" (p. xix).

Mundie and his co-authors include over 600 biographies of Civil War notables in this study as well as photographs of the tombstones which mark

their individual graves. The biographical sketches are informative despite being limited to specific categories such as Civil War service record, birth place and date, death place and date, educational background, occupation before and after the war, the exact location of burial site, and a concise list of additional biographical references. While it is impossible for one reviewer to verify all the biographical facts presented in this work, it appears that the authors carefully researched and recorded each individual's life story and career. However, this reviewer did note one inaccuracy in the information written about James Webb Throckmorton. The authors write, "Throckmorton County is named for him" (p. 282). Throckmorton County is named for Dr. William E. Throckmorton, J. W. Throckmorton's father. This is a minor error and does not tarnish the overall merits of this work, but it does suggest that one should approach the biographical entries with caution. This work should prove to be a useful reference book for scholars, genealogists, and general readers of Civil War literature.

Kenneth Wayne Howell
College Station, Texas

The Last Battle of the Civil War: Palmetto Ranch, Jeffrey Wm Hunt
(University of Texas Press, P.O. Box 7819, Austin, TX 78713-7819)
2002. Contents. Maps. Illus. Notes. Appendices. Biblio. Index. P. 217.
\$22.95. Paperback.

In the vast body of literature dealing with the Civil War, the Battle of Palmetto (Palmito) Ranch is most often mentioned, if at all, as an anomaly. Seemingly without purpose or historical significance, it has been presented as a trivial footnote to the conflict, a hollow symbolic closing action, or even a source of enlightenment for those educated to believe that the war ended in the hills of Virginia in April 1865.

Military historian Hunt offers an alternative by focusing attention on the human side of the story. While his book provides great detail on the mechanics of the battle, it more importantly places the battle in a variety of contexts, from international boundary concerns to military-political maneuvering.

Hunt carefully develops the story like a mystery novel, one where the ending is revealed up front. He begins, not at the point of conflict, however, but with the role Texas played in the war and with an ill-fated separatist plan for peace. He uses the battle, which disrupted the notion of an understood truce along the Rio Grande, to highlight broader tragedies of misguided human emotions, internal conflicts of leadership, and the collapse of a struggle for independence.

Drawing extensively on court martial records, as well as contemporary newspaper accounts and secondary sources, Hunt reveals the complexities of battle, even one so often overlooked. Along the way, he debunks myths long associated with the story while leaving points of conjecture open for the readers' interpretation based on available facts. The book makes an important contribution to the growing body of Civil War Texana.

Dan K. Utley
Pflugerville, Texas

Manifest Destiny's Underworld: Filibustering in Antebellum America, Robert E. May (University of North Carolina Press, P.O. Box 2288, Chapel Hill, NC 27515-2288) 2002. Contents. Illus. Maps. Notes. Index. P. 426. \$45. Hardcover.

Purdue University's Robert E. May has written a fine monograph in *Manifest Destiny's Underworld: Filibustering in Antebellum America*. This thoroughly researched and readable work complements his earlier fine pieces, *John A. Quitman: Old South Crusader* and *The Union, the Confederacy, and the Atlantic Rim*. This work will not only appeal to historians and students but also to general readers. Libraries in particular should acquire it as it provides insight into a variety of topics, including expansion, the origins of Manifest Destiny, the South, Latin and Central America, and leading figures of the age.

May concludes that filibusters, American adventurers who raised or participated in incursions of foreign countries that were at peace with the United States, helped define the ambitions and restlessness of the *antebellum* period. Too often scholars neglect the eagerness and resolve of Southerners dedicated to pushing the boundaries of slavery beyond the United States.

May clearly delineates that filibustering changed the climate in America, especially in port cities. The initiatives also captured the fascination of the public. Americans not only supported their campaigns with financing but also their tacit support of the activities. Newspapers, literature, and songs depicted the filibustering as chivalric and honorable – quite different from international opinion that condemned filibusterers as pirates and mercenaries.

May's work is a welcome addition to a variety of fields. Historians will appreciate that the work places filibustering in context of Manifest Destiny. A reading of the work explains much of America's inability to curtail the initiatives and the strength of the expansionist movement.

Dallas Cothrum
University of Texas at Tyler

Through the Shadows with O. Henry, Al Jennings (Texas Tech University Press, P.O. Box 41037, Lubbock, TX 79410) 2000. Reprint 1921. Contents. P.323. \$17.95. Paperback.

Paul H. Carlson, series editor for Double Mountain Books, has reintroduced an out-of-print, classic story of the American West by Al Jennings, *Through the Shadows of O. Henry*, first published in 1921. Jennings's memoir, filled with colorful descriptions and picturesque language, is of interest to any aficionado of the American West. But the book also holds an interest for admirers of the American genius of the short story, William Sydney Porter, known to his audience as O. Henry.

Jennings relates his life as a train robber and an outlaw fleeing from place to place choosing between "the range or the pen." Choosing the range, he traveled across the West and ended up in such remote places as Mexico City and Honduras, where he first met William Sydney Porter, who Jennings claimed was also on the lam. Jennings describes a number of escapades the men shared before going their separate ways. The two met again in the Ohio Penitentiary where they renewed their friendship after law enforcement officers caught up with Jennings, the inept train robber, and Porter, a convicted bank embezzler. According to Jennings, Porter wrote his first short story while in prison and read it aloud to him.

Upon release from prison, Jennings submitted some of his own writings to O. Henry's publisher, claiming that "The world is entitled to know all about Bill Porter and nobody can tell them that but myself." Jennings's memoir, however, is too exaggerated to be wholly believed and must be viewed guardedly as part fact and part fiction. His imagination augments a story supposedly based on truth, but there is little evidence to support many of his flowery claims. Nevertheless, the book is most entertaining and worth the reprinting and the reading.

Sarah Jackson
Nacogdoches, Texas

Friends: Cowboys, Cattle, Horses, Dogs, Cats, and 'Coons, John R. Erickson (University of North Texas Press, P. O. Box 311336, Denton, TX 76203-1336) 2002. Contents, Illus. P. 165. \$14.95. Paperback.

Aristotle said that friendship is indispensable to life. Good friends make us better. After reading John Erickson's new book of stories about his friends I think he would agree. I know I do.

Friends is number six in the Western Life Series published by University of North Texas Press, all by Erickson. Sharing much in common with his

previous *Some Babies Grow Up to Cowboys* (fifth in the Series), both are collections of short pieces Erickson has published elsewhere. This particular collection is mostly newspaper columns and articles written for *American Cowboy* magazine and *Livestock Weekly*.

Most of these stories are humorous, although some are touching. A few tell of his friendship with more well known characters like cowboy cartoonist Ace Reid or fiddle player Frankie McWhorter, while others tell of cowboys and ranchers with whom he has worked over the years. The most amusing are Erickson's stories of friendships with cows and horses, cats and dogs, and even a raccoon. With his attentive eye, self-deprecating humor, and tender-heartedness toward animals, one can see where Erickson gets some of the characters for his highly popular *Hank the Cowdog* series. Nevertheless, truth is stranger than fiction; where else but on Erickson's ranch and in these stories would you ever run into an animal like "Texie, the Incredible Burping Dog?"

I was impressed by the gratitude Erickson expresses for his friends. Somehow or another each of his friends touched him, taught him, and helped make him more of who he is than he would have been without them. It's a long way from the Panhandle of Texas to ancient Athens, but Aristotle would understand such friendships.

Kyle Childress
Nacogdoches, Texas

The Lonesome Plains: Death and Revival on an American Frontier, Louis Fairchild (Texas A&M University Press, 4354 TAMU, College Station, TX 77843-4354) 2002. Contents. Illus. Notes. Biblio. Index. P. 323. \$29.95. Hardcover.

Louis Fairchild's *Lonesome Plains* is a laudable attempt to define the social conditions along the West Texas frontier during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Through careful analysis of hundreds of memoirs, interviews, letters, and other documents left to posterity, the author reveals that the isolated conditions of the West Texas plains caused anxiety and heartache for many of the early settlers in this region. Fairchild correctly observes that the prevailing loneliness of the settlers was a defining characteristic of West Texas society between the rise of the cattle industry late in the 1860s and the permanent location of farmers and their families early in the 1900s.

Skillfully demonstrating how solitude on the plains shaped the social and cultural practices of early West Texas pioneers, Fairchild explores two aspects of frontier society – death and religious revival. According to the author, death brought settlers together to perform unpleasant tasks: building coffins,

preparing bodies for burial, and the ritual of giving last rites. The author reminds his readers that “going to the aid of an individual or a family in distress was one form of social contact, one opportunity to break the onerous feelings of isolation and loneliness.” (p. xxi).

Religious revivals also brought people together on the frontier. Fairchild reveals that these annual events filled the social void settlers experienced in their daily lives. Although the religious camp meetings lasted only a few days, they provided settlers with brief but necessary escapes from the isolation of the plains.

Fairchild successfully captured the emotions and spirits of the early pioneers of West Texas and revealed how these courageous settlers coped with the pervasive loneliness of frontier society. Scholars will find this study a valuable contribution to Texas historiography, and the general public will appreciate the author’s vivid accounts of daily life on the Texas plains.

Kenneth Wayne Howell
Texas A&M University

Recollections of Western Texas, 1852-1855 By Two of the U.S. Mounted Rifles, Robert Wooster, editor (Texas Tech University Press, P.O. Box 41037, Lubbock, TX 79410) 2001. Reprint 1995. Contents. Illus. Appendix. Annotations. Index. P. 109. \$15.95. Paperback.

Compared with those dealing with the post-Civil War period, books about Texas history before the war are relatively few in number and, very often, lack the breadth and depth of coverage one might prefer. This work, by two young Irish brothers, provides a tantalizing glimpse of Texas and its people in the decade before Lincoln’s election. It is a resource that is both informative and insightful and should be read carefully by anyone having an interest in Texas history.

William and John Wright, natives of Ireland and both in their early twenties, arrived in New York City in 1850, where they promptly joined the U.S. Army. For the next five years they served in various postings, eventually as part of Company F, Regiment of Mounted Riflemen in southwestern Texas between San Antonio and the Rio Grande. The two young men proved to be careful observers, commenting perceptively on their life in the military and describing the people, flora, and fauna they encountered in their corner of Texas. Shortly after their return home, the brothers published their account. It was still fresh in their minds and not obscured by the passing of time that would have blurred many of the significant details. The extensive introduction to the book by Robert Wooster places the brothers’ experience in the proper

perspective of the times, thus adding immeasurably to the value of the book.

Over the course of their narrative, the Wright brothers demonstrated that they had little sympathy for the native peoples they encountered and tended to perpetuate the notion, present in other accounts of the time, that the wildlife in the state, at least in the eyes of Europeans, was both unusually strange and inordinately threatening and ferocious. Their view of the Army, and of their fellow troopers, was generally favorable, thus challenging the stereotypical belief that holds that the individual soldiers were indolent, unprofessional, and substandard in virtually every regard and were led by an officer corps that, at best, could be considered only marginally competent. Although relatively brief, the book deserves a wide audience. It should appeal especially to those interested in Texas and its people before the trauma, turmoil, and change ushered in by the Civil War and its aftermath.

Donald R. Walker
Texas Tech University

Beyond the Law, Emmett Dalton (Pelican Publishing Co., P.O. Box 3110, Gretna, LA 70054) 2002. Reprint 1918. Illus. Contents. P. 190. \$7.95. Paperback.

Jesse James and the First Missouri Train Robbery: A Historical Documentation of the Train Raid at Gads Hill, Missouri, January 31, 1874, Ronald H. Beights (Pelican Publishing Co., P.O. Box 3110, Gretna, LA 70054) 2002. Contents. Notes. Biblio. Maps. Illus. Index. P. 206. \$14.95. Paperback.

“Forced Into Outlawry” is the title of Chapter VI of *Beyond the Law*, the autobiography of Emmett Dalton. In 1892 five members of the notorious Dalton Gang attempted to rob two banks simultaneously in Coffeyville, Kansas. A wild shootout erupted, and twenty-one-year-old Emmett was the sole outlaw to survive his wounds. “Although I had never fired a shot,” (p. 158) Emmett was charged with the murder of two citizens. Sentenced to life in prison, he was pardoned in 1907 and spent his remaining thirty years engaging successfully in honest enterprise and vigorously crusading against crime and for prison reform.

In 1918 he published *Beyond the Law*, discussing how he and his brothers were “Forced Into Outlawry” and describing their various robberies, including the explosive fiasco at Coffeyville. The last few chapters cover Emmett’s years in prison and his reflections about crime and the penal system. In 1894, during his second year as a convict, Emmett received a letter from his mother telling

him that his brother Bill – another Dalton outlaw – had been killed by a posse of deputy U. S. marshals. Emmett reported skeptically that “Bill and some others I did not know were accused of a bank robbery at Longview, Texas,” and that the deputy marshals were “the dirtiest, low-down bunch of cowards that ever assembled together.” (p. 166) (Bill Dalton was slain by a posse two weeks after leading the bloody Longview Bank Robbery on May 23, 1894). Emmett’s bias for his family and against lawmen, prosecutors, and judges runs throughout the book, but outlaw buffs will welcome this inexpensive reprint.

Jesse James and the First Missouri Train Robbery is a thorough examination of the 1874 raid by the James Gang at Gads Hill, Missouri. The author skillfully includes information about Jesse’s career, along with excellent photographs and maps. Although nothing is included about Texas, this volume will be another welcome addition to the bookshelves of students of frontier outlawry.

Bill O’Neal
Panola College

Last Words: Dying in the Old West, Garry Radison (Eakin Press, P.O. Box 90159, Austin, TX 78709-0159) 2002. Contents. Biblio. Index. P. 253. \$26.95. Paperback.

“You have stolen my life, and you’ll wade through blood for it. You fellows that are grinning now will bleed and die to pay for this murder ... Oh, damn you, you ain’t worth killing. Here, help me up on this horse” (p. 14).

These words of anger and despair were uttered by William McFadden just before he was lynched by a “grinning” mob in Shelbyville in 1841 during the Regulator-Moderator War. McFadden is only one of more than 500 men, along with a few women, whose final expressions have been compiled by Garry Radison in *Last Words: Dying in the Old West*. He organized them in forty categories, such as “Explorers and Fur Traders,” “Texas Independence,” “Feuds and Duels,” “The Mexican War,” “Gunfighters,” “El Paso,” “Tombstone, Arizona,” “Suicides,” and “Dying Advice.”

Because Texas was the scene of more frontier violence than any other state or territory, the last words of numerous Texans are included. And even though the subtitle suggests a focus on “the Old West,” more than a few of the final words were spoken in East Texas. William McFadden is one of three victims of the Regulator-Moderator War whose last words are reproduced. When noted actor Maurice Barrymore was wounded by a drunken troublemaker in Marshall in 1879, his associate Benjamin Porter also was shot. “Oh, my Lord, why did that man want to kill me?” gasped Porter. “What harm

did I do him” (p. 173)? In 1905 at a Prohibition League Meeting in Hempstead, violence erupted, and Tom Pinckney, shot twice in the back, was one of three men who died. “If I wanted to shoot a man, I wouldn’t shoot him in the back” (p. 182). Sam Houston, dying with his wife by his side in Huntsville, last spoke of two things which meant the most to him: “Texas – Texas! – Margaret!” (p. 9).

In addition to these East Texas events, the final utterances of many famous Old West characters are recorded and briefly explained. There are no photographs, but there is a good deal of grisly color (“You pull that knife out of my back,” snarled Texas outlaw Sostenes L’Archeveque, “and I’ll kill every one of you!” (p. 111). *Last Words* provides enjoyable light reading.

Bill O’Neal
Panola College

Last of the Old-Time Outlaws: The George West Musgrave Story, Karen Holliday Tanner and John D. Tanner, Jr. (University of Oklahoma Press, 4100 28th Ave NW, Norman, OK 73069-8218) 2002. Contents. Maps. Illus. Notes. Biblio. Index. P. 374. \$39.95. Hardcover.

Karen Holliday Tanner, whose *Doc Holliday: A Family Portrait* is the best biography of that notorious character, has teamed with husband John D. Tanner, Jr. to relate the story of a less famous but equally colorful frontier badman. Exhaustively researched and scrupulously documented, *Last of the Old-Time Outlaws* narrates the saga of Texan George West Musgrave, whose criminal career spanned parts of two centuries and two continents.

Musgraves’ story reads more like the stuff of Hollywood than of history, but the authors have documented the events to present a reliable account. The reference sources – including interviews, unpublished manuscripts, court records, and newspaper reports – occupy nearly a third of the book. The Tanners are careful to present their subject without intrusive moralizing; thus Musgrave emerges as a believable human being, neither all good nor all bad. And when contending bits of evidence – or lack thereof – cloud the historical record, the authors show readers how and why they reached their conclusions.

Casual readers may find such digressions among the book’s weaknesses when detailed analysis interrupts the narrative flow. Another minor problem is the vast number of individuals involved in the narrative. A “Who’s Who” list is helpful, and readers may expect to reference it frequently. Finally, the two maps included are barely adequate.

These are relatively minor criticisms, compared to the book’s accomplishments. The Tanners have related a remarkable story of outlawry on

the fading frontiers of North and South America. Both students of Western crime and punishment and general readers interested in the "Wild West" will find *Last of the Old-Time Outlaws* rewarding.

Roger Tuller
Texas A&M University – Kingsville

Running with Bonnie and Clyde: The Ten Fast Years of Ralph Fults, John Neal Phillips (University of Oklahoma Press, 1005 Asp Avenue, Norman, OK 73019-6051) 1996. Reprint. 2002. Preface. Illus. Ack. Notes. Biblio. Index. P. 395. \$19.95. Paperback.

"Ain't no way that boy's going to give up," said one of the officers. "He's done shot his way out of a dozen battles. He ain't doing it again."

This is the type of straight, behind-the-scenes language in John Neal Phillips' book, *Running with Bonnie and Clyde: The Ten Fast Years of Ralph Fults*. This book is considered by most Great Depression – era historians to be the cornerstone of the Bonnie and Clyde writings on the market to date. Phillips leads the reader to the inside story regarding the details of the Clyde Barrow gang and its many members. By detailing the bloody crime spree that brought fear to the Southwest early in the 1930s, it becomes clear early on that this is not just another machine gun – toting bank robber book. This is a researched, chronological narrative that tells the story of a young tough named Ralph Fults from his early years through his time in the Barrow gang and to his final redemption upon release from prison. Phillips provides specifics of events that could only be gotten from the several eyewitness accounts of individuals he managed to interview.

If there were any criticism of the work, it would be that the book might be a bit overwhelming for casual readers of Great Depression outlaw history. Otherwise, the author gives the reader specifics of events ranging from the rationale behind Southwest outlawry to how lawmen were outgunned and technologically outranked by the Clyde Barrows of the day. This is a powerful work that has no rival in this topic.

Patrick McConal
Bryan, Texas

Alvin Wirtz: The Senator, LBJ, and LCRA, Ken Kesselus (Eakin Press, P.O. Box 90159, Austin, TX 78709-0159) 2002. Contents. Notes. Illus. Index. P. 296. \$32.95. Paperback.

The political history of Texas in the post-1945 era has received a new and welcome addition with this publication, a biography of one of the principal persons involved in water development and a key figure in the political fortunes of prominent Texas political leaders, especially Lyndon Johnson. Alvin Wirtz, a hill country lawyer who rose to prominence, was born in 1888 in Columbus, Texas. He abandoned the family tradition of carpentry and became a lawyer. Wirtz married Kitty Mae Stamps in 1913. He quickly became active in water development and won a seat in the Texas Senate in 1923, where he continued to serve through 1930. Wirtz became the driving force behind flood control projects on the Colorado River, a role that made him an ardent New Dealer and undersecretary of the Interior for Harold Ickes in 1939. In this capacity and along with his previous work in water development, Wirtz was poised to become a key figure in the political activities of the Lone Star state in the 1940s.

Wirtz became a confidant and political operative for Lyndon Johnson. He advised Johnson's ill-fated senatorial race in 1941 and advised him to be patient and wait for another chance. By 1948 the Johnson machine, of which Wirtz was an important part, was primed and ready for battle. The much debated outcome, which elected Johnson to the U.S. Senate, owed much to the advice and counsel of Wirtz. "This victory was Wirtz's highwater mark in politics" (p. 235). Wirtz's health began to fail and despite warning from physicians and pleas from family, he continued to labor on behalf of his beloved Brazos River. Upon his death in 1951, Democratic leaders knew they had lost a wise counselor. In 1952, the LCRA renamed one of its dams in Wirtz's memory.

The author should be commended for a well-researched and documented account of Wirtz. It is well written and assures the reader that he is observing the workings of Texas politics from the inside. This work will join the growing literature on Texas politics in the twentieth century.

Clayton Brown
Texas Christian University

Giant Under the Hill: A History of the Spindletop Oil Discovery at Beaumont, Texas, in 1901, Judith Walker Linsley, Ellen Walker Rienstra, and Jo Ann Stiles (Texas State Historical Association, 2.306 Sid Richardson Hall, University of Texas, Austin, TX 78712) 2002. Contents. Biblio. Notes. Index. Photographs. P. 304. \$29.95. Hardcover.

With the centennial celebration well behind us, we can count the achievements that marked the celebration and add this volume to the A-list. Issued fifty years after James A. Clark's and Michel T. Halbouty's classic, *Giant Under the Hill* has all of the strengths of that landmark work, and some distinctive one's of its own. Discerning readers of Texas history will want to add it to their bookshelves, if it is not already there.

The research that supports this book is solid. It encompasses newspapers, collections of personal papers, public documents, interviews from the Pioneers of Texas Oil Collection along with some done for the volume, and the scholarly publications on the topic that preceded it. No stone remains unturned. Like Clark and Halbouty, Linsley, Rienstra, and Stiles labored to get at the essential information about Spindletop. Unlike the earlier authors, they also cited their sources, making this book more useful.

Like *Spindletop*, *Giant Under the Hill* reads exceptionally well. Both books wrap the most significant strands of the story around the colorful human details that make good history memorable. The account of the completion of the discovery well in Chapter Six is a genuine page-turner, with vivid accounts of the experiences of the Hamill brothers on the rig floor and of Captain Anthony Lucas and his family when they were told that the gusher had blown in. Earlier chapters laid the foundation for the central event and subsequent ones chronicled the resultant boom and the spread of exploration through the Gulf Coast area. The concluding chapter, "Spindletop: a Retrospective," takes the story through subsequent re-entries in the field into the subsequent life events of the major characters and leaves the readers with a vivid description of the site of the epoch-making discovery: "Across the top of the hill, the shifting Gulf winds whistle through the marsh grass, still—and always—carrying the perennial, all-pervasive scent of oil."

The skillfully told story is amply supported by historical photographs and other illustrations. The book is a solid achievement, worthy of its subject.

Roger M. Olien
University of Texas – Permian Basin

Oil in Texas: The Gusher Age, 1895-1945, Diana Davids Olien and Roger M. Olien (University of Texas Press, P.O. Box 7819, Austin, TX 78713-7819) 2002. Contents. Illus. Maps. Notes. Biblio. Index. P. 307. \$39.95. Hardcover.

Texas entered the oil industry aggressively with the 75,000 barrel per day production from the 1901 Spindletop gusher in southeast Texas. By 1940 the state's numerous fields contributed over one-third of the production of the United States, and the Texas Railroad Commission had effectively become the national regulatory agency. In that role, it was more powerful than today's Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) (p.vii). Diana Olien and Roger Olien's new history of the first fifty years of commercial oil production in Texas highlights the social, economic, and political changes emerging from this new industry and offers an appreciation of the aggressive Texas oil men and politicians who defended their interests successfully against Standard Oil Company. The great Spindletop gusher was found where the "experts" said it could not be, and the laws of the state of Texas were used to keep Standard Oil at bay while the industry took hold.

Three East Texas fields – the 1895 Corsicana strike, the 1901 Spindletop discovery, and the giant East Texas field – along with West Texas' Permian Basin receive the most detailed scrutiny, as well they should. But the authors include new information about the less-often-discussed southwest Texas strikes as well. They examine the first half of twentieth-century Texas decade by decade, with attention devoted to new discoveries, revived fields, and the changes brought to Texas and Texans by the industry that largely defined twentieth-century Texas history.

Trained oil field hands emerged from Spindletop and traveled to new discoveries as skilled workers. Towns appeared in the least likely places, and the oilmen and women dealt with high costs and great uncertainty in oil discovery and production. Geologists proved to be of little help in the early stages, but advances in technology transformed their roles by the 1930s and 1940s. From the depression era "bean jobs" of the 1930s, when wages were sometimes food, to the huge refineries and new petrochemical industries of the 1940s, the industry fed on the discovery of new fields and the demands of World War II.

The Oliens have written a readable and informative survey of the first fifty years of commercial oil production in Texas, the state that has dominated the industry since 1901. *Oil in Texas: The Gusher Age, 1895-1945*, written for a general as well as a scholarly audience, admirably serves the purpose for which it was written. Add it to your library, but do note that the story about the naming of Spindletop is incorrect. The name was originally attached to a

nearly rise in the ground closer to the Neches River. The dome on which oil was discovered was not called Spindletop until after the gusher came in.

Jo Ann Stiles
Lamar University

The Wrong Stuff: The Adventures and Misadventures of an 8th Air Force Aviator, Truman Smith (University of Oklahoma Press, 4100 28th Ave NW, Norman, OK 73069-8218) 2002. 1996. Reprint. Contents. Missions. Index. P. 358. \$17.95. Illus. Paperback.

The Wrong Stuff is Oklahoma native Truman Smith's first-hand account of his experience as a B-17 copilot in the war against the Third Reich and provides excellent insight into the daily routine of B-17 crews. Smith's brutally honest style is direct and readable. As a primary source, it is an excellent introduction for anyone interested in the air war over Europe.

Smith's account is exceptional in that it erases the hindsight of victory prevalent among those who did not experience the war. The emotions of desperation, fear, and uncertainty common during the war are vivid. He underscores how mass daylight bombings had never been attempted. The strategy was untested and new. Could the untried Allies really defeat the experienced Germans?

A second theme is Smith's emphasis on the business of war: "Good Guys don't win wars" (p. 11). Though bombing civilians may not have been moral, the United States did not enter the war to lose. Smith argues that to facilitate victory, anything that could be done had to be done.

A final point of interest involves the secondary importance of strategic bombing compared with the destruction of the Luftwaffe. Smith claims that the primary goal of bombing raids was not to cripple German industry, but to entice fighters out to battle so they could be destroyed.

Smith tends to be repetitive at times, though his sporadic habit of repeating himself adds authenticity to this memoir. It is as if he relates out loud, tacitly falling into "Did I tell you about?" lapses that urge respect for the intensely personal nature of his narrative. If it is unpolished, it gains credibility precisely for this reason.

Jason Denzin
Nacogdoches, Texas

Remembering the Alamo: Memory, Modernity, & the Master Symbol, Richard R. Flores (University of Texas Press, P.O. Box 7819, Austin, TX 78713-7819) 2002. Contents. Notes. References. Index. Illus. Maps. P. 192. \$17.95. Paperback. \$40.00. Hardcover.

Richard Flores examines the metanarrative of the Alamo within the context of Texas modernization. His analysis of the myths, memories, and ideologies related to the production of the Alamo tale contends that this Texas symbol helps distinguish racial and ethnic identities that have often created exclusionary stereotypes for Mexican-Americans. To Flores, the cultural representation of the Alamo has codified the social tension existent among Anglos and Mexican-Americans between 1880 and 1920. In effect, the Alamo myth contributes to cultural "otherness."

New capitalist economic relationships in South Texas marginalized the traditional Mexican-Texan elite late in the nineteenth century. Thus, the Alamo myth emerged to rationalize the new economic situation. This reified "master symbol" heralded Anglo-American nationalism while it ostracized the newly subordinated Mexican-Texans. The Alamo story has since effectively reinforced the subordinate position of Hispanics in Texas. Flores examines cultural battlegrounds including cinema, and focuses on the creation of Davy Crockett's legend to demonstrate the negative stereotypes of Hispanics exhibited in the Alamo tale.

The overall gist of the book is convincing. Nevertheless, much of Flores' argument rests on his assertion that South Texas became "modernized" during the crucial period. To buy this thesis, we must accept that the introduction of capitalism – synonymous with modernity according to Flores – produced the social effects the author believes came about. Unfortunately, Flores relies exclusively on secondary sources to demonstrate these changes. Modernization finds representation here as an objective, material process that produced disastrous results for Mexican-Texans. If a "process" such as modernization proved so capable of subordinating the Hispanic population, why was a cultural symbol such as the Alamo necessary to reinforce that situation? Or better stated, why study culture at all if material processes are more important?

Daniel Newcomer

Stephen F. Austin State University

The Texas 36th Division: A History, Bruce L. Brager (Eakin Press, P.O. Box 90159, Austin, TX 78709-0159) 2002. Contents. Appendix. Notes. Biblio. Illus. Maps. Index. P. 327. \$29.95. Paperback.

Bruce L. Brager's latest work, *The Texas 36th Division: A History*, chronicles the history of the famous, and highly decorated, World War II combat unit. Brager admits in his introduction that his book "...is not the history of the 36th Division..." He continues, "...this is a history of those men" (p. ix). Brager traces the origin of the division back to the days of the Texas Revolution.

The first two chapters of the book focus on the 36th Division's ancestors. Brager shows how the spirit of the fighting, nineteenth-century Texan was embodied by the twentieth-century division. The men of the 36th Division served with distinction in both World Wars. They carried the bravado of great Texans such as Sam Houston across the Atlantic to Italy, France, and Germany. When engaged in battle in places such as Velletri (Italy), the men of the division lived up to their legendary predecessors.

Brager's constant reference to multiple secondary sources helps to create a solid context for the division's story. His meticulous use of primary sources gives the narrative authority. Graduate students will be pleased by Brager's extensive bibliography and studious endnotes. Brager effectively lets his sources tell the story. It is a story that can be enjoyed by history buffs and accepted by scholars.

Richard L. Merrill
Pocatello, Idaho

The Light Crust Doughboys Are on the Air: Celebrating Seventy Years of Texas Music, John Mark Dempsey (University of North Texas Press, P.O. Box 311336, Denton, TX 76203-1336) 2002. Contents. Illus. Appendices. CD. Postscript. Index. P. 294. \$29.95. Hardcover.

John Mark Dempsey and Art Greenhaw, a fan and a member of the Lightcrust Doughboys, worked together to create a book that not only celebrates seventy years of Texas music but also defines, through stories, the distinction that keeps the group alive.

At first glance, the book seems to invite hardcore Light Crust Doughboy fans to delve in. At second glance, any fan of any form of Texas music will enjoy this in-depth discussion of a group that brought Texas music into the homes of a large and consistent audience.

Dempsey has done his homework. The book not only tells the history of

the group, it captures the voices of all who have a story to tell. His introduction reminds the reader, "So what would have been the chances, back in 1931, that the Light Crust Doughboys would be taking the stage on a warm summer night amidst the opulent, high-tech ambiance of North Dallas in the first year of a new millennium?" Then the rest of the story takes off.

Dempsey does not follow a linear narrative; rather he captures the rich tapestry of Doughboys history by weaving many threads together, stories of each bandmember – and there were many – with stories of fans. Dempsey keeps his focus clear: the Doughboys were and are a phenomenon in the history of American and Texas music.

The multitude of stories reveal a rich vein of gold in the history of Texas music, *The Light Crust Doughboys*. The accompanying CD, placed in a sleeve on the back cover, provides the reader the experience of the music. And the appendix gives the facts. Dempsey, a native Texan with experience in radio, uses the experience of Art Greenhaw, bassist and manager for the Doughboys, to document a group that continues to impact the history of Texas music. A delight to read these stories and hear this music.

Kathleen Hudson
Schreiner University

Big Thicket Legacy, Campbell & Lynn Loughmiller, editors (University of North Texas Press, P.O. Box 311336, Denton, TX 76203-1336) 1977. Reprint 2002. Temple Big Thicket Series, No. 2. Contents. Map. Illus. P. 224. \$14.95. Paperback.

First published in 1977, this *Big Thicket* classic offers a new generation first-hand, up-close insight into a time, a place, and its inhabitants. Over a period of nine years, Campbell and Lynn Loughmiller visited, taped, and interviewed an amazing selection of remarkable people – not as curiosity seekers but as friends. They returned to visit again and again – just to “set a spell” and talk. Their warmth and respect for their subjects is perceptibly genuine.

The Loughmillers captured with faithful, unvarnished accuracy the idiom and the character of *Big Thicket* folks. Among them were loggers, hunters (bear, hog, and deer), doctors, stave makers, grocers, judges, preachers, and a self-made naturalist. People such as Lance Rosier, Dolph Fillingim, Jude Hart, Dr. John Bevil, and Fount Simmons become our friends, too, and we share their work, their homes, their faith, their humor, their values.

Because of the Loughmiller’s ability to select passages that maintain the story and illustrate character, they have set a new standard for oral historians.

The result is superb social history. The Loughmillers not only preserved a legacy, but also left a legacy of their own.

Maxine Johnston
Batson, Texas

Acts of Faith: The Catholic Church in Texas, 1900-1950, James Talmadge Moore (Texas A&M University Press, 4354 TAMU, College Station, TX 77843-4354) 2002. Contents. Illus. Appendices. Notes. Index. P. 263. \$39.95. Hardcover.

This institutional history is a sequel to James T. Moore's *Through Fire and Flood: the Catholic Church in Frontier Texas, 1836-1900*.

A major theme is growth: a six-fold increase in the Catholic population accompanied the expansion of Texas from 1900 to 1950. New dioceses were formed, and San Antonio became an archdiocese composed of Texas dioceses. Native Texan diocesan clergy could not have coped with the expansion by themselves. Priests and nuns and brothers who were members of religious orders played a vital role, and many – in some congregations a majority – came from abroad, especially from Ireland, a country which contributed hundreds of sisters who founded and staffed hospitals.

Catholic Texans experienced religious prejudice themselves and were sensitive to others who suffered it. In the 1920s, Catholics, along with Jews and blacks, felt the hostility of the Ku Klux Klan. Texas Catholics, more so than other American Catholics, were saddened when Mexican seminarians, nuns, priests, and bishops sought refuge from their country's anti-clericalism of the late teens and the "Christeros" repression of 1926-1929. And Catholics soon learned of inhumanity farther away. When Nazi persecution of Jews occurred in Germany in the 1930s, Arthur J. Drosssaerts and Robert Lucey, two of the earliest and firmest American critics of Hitler, successive archbishops of San Antonio, awoke people to the evil of that dictator.

This book recounts the creation of new dioceses and new institutions by emphasizing the contributions of leading clergymen, sisters, and laity. Of all the people mentioned, the author's favorite seems to be Rev. Msgr. James M. Kirwin, vicar general of the Diocese of Galveston from 1911 to 1926. A man whose popularity was "virtually without parallel," Kirwin "never sought to overshadow ... his bishop," but apparently he did.

Among thousands of clergy, some were ineffectual and some must have failed to follow the ideals of their faith, but the book covers more positive topics.

Sources cited include diocesan archives, Carlos Castañada's multi-

volume history, and, most frequently, the *Southern Messenger*, a Catholic newspaper produced by San Antonio's Menger family.

Readers will impatiently await a future volume bringing the story to the present.

Joseph A. Devine
Stephen F. Austin State University

Blind Lemon Jefferson: His Life, His Death, and His Legacy, Robert Uzzel (Eakin Press, P.O. Box 90159, Austin, TX 78709-0159) 2002. Contents. Notes. Biblio. Appendices. Illus. P. 109. \$17.95. Paperback.

Robert Uzzel has produced a short but substantive study of legendary Texas bluesman Blind Lemon Jefferson. While it is accepted that the Mississippi Delta is the birthplace of the blues, Uzzel rightly argues that states such as Tennessee, Louisiana, and Texas also have made valuable contributions. His opening chapter discusses the characteristics of the country blues, explaining its origins in the traumas and frustrations that rural Southern blacks experienced following the end of Reconstruction.

Uzzel covers Lemon Jefferson's early years in Freestone County, where he was born near Wortham in 1893. Partially sightless from birth, Lemon mastered the guitar and before the age of twenty had become a renowned figure playing street corners, country picnics, and Saturday night whisky parties in Central Texas. Drawn to the vibrant Deep Ellum district with its rapidly expanding black population Lemon moved to Dallas. His growing reputation as a singer led to the opportunity to migrate to Chicago by early 1926 to cut blues 78s for Paramount Records. Uzzel contends that this is the basis of his historical importance as the roughly 100 songs he recorded between 1926 and 1929 made him the country's first successful blues artist. Among these are classics such as "That Black Snake Moan" and "Match Box Blues." As evidence of Lemon's far-ranging influence, Uzzel points out that the latter tune was later recorded by Carl Perkins and the Beatles. Bob Dylan was a fan of Jefferson, recording "See That My Grave Is Kept Clean" on his debut album. Jefferson's inspiration to Texas folk and blues greats such as Leadbelly, Lightnin' Hopkins, and T-Bone Walker is even more direct and obvious.

Lemon Jefferson tragically died in a snowdrift on a Chicago street late in 1929. Robert Uzzel's work capably presents the life and legacy of this seminal musician.

Steve Davis
Kingwood College