

# Review of Texas Books

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*Review of Texas Books*  
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*Murder and Mayhem: The War of Reconstruction in Texas* is available at most book stores or directly from Texas A&M University Press. James M. Smallwood recently retired as professor of history at Oklahoma State University. He is also the author of *Time of Hope, Time of Despair: Black Texans during Reconstruction*, winner of the Coral H. Tullis Award in 1981. The late Barry A. Crouch was a long-time professor of history at Gallaudet University; Larry Peacock is a genealogist and historian who lives in Burleson, Texas.

Dr. Max Loges is a professor in the Department of English and Modern Languages at Lamar University. He has published articles on a broad range of subjects including the American Civil War.

## Editors' Choice:

# *Murder and Mayhem: The War of Reconstruction in Texas*

James M. Smallwood, Barry A. Crouch, and Larry Peacock

**Civil War Reconstruction: The Dark Side**  
Review by Max Loges

Most Americans are not well informed about the history of their country. This fact is particularly true concerning the period of Civil War Reconstruction. Most traditional textbooks discuss the emergence of the "bad" Radical Republicans who tried to impeach President Johnson and attempted to suppress the southern states. Yet after reading *Murder and Mayhem: The War of Reconstruction in Texas*, most readers will find fault with the Radical Republicans for not having been radical enough.

The book focuses in particular on the violence of former Confederates led by Bob Lee in Corners Country: where Grayson, Collin, Hunt, and Fannin counties converge. These desperados attempted to turn back the clock on the changes created by the Civil War. They threatened and murdered freemen and white Unionists. The authors estimate that in the period 1865-1869 Lee's gang murdered over two hundred people in these four counties whose total population in 1870 was only 54,000.

The work also examines the activities of Lewis Peacock, the leader of the Unionists, in bringing Bob Lee to justice in June 1869. Peacock's victory, however, came at a great price, for he was brutally murdered by three friends of Lee two years later.

The authors' claims are well documented and supported by primary documents from the National Archives, the Texas State Library, and the Texas A&M-Commerce Archive collection. The book presents a much needed look at this volatile period in Texas' history that has all too often been supported by myth and prejudice.

SMALLWOOD, JAMES M., BARRY A. CROUCH, AND LARRY PEACOCK. *MURDER AND MAYHEM: THE WAR OF RECONSTRUCTION IN TEXAS*. COLLEGE STATION: TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2004. 200 PP. BIBLIOGRAPHY, ILLUSTRATIONS, INDEX, MAP, PHOTOGRAPHS. \$24.95 CLOTH. ISBN 1-58544-280-1.

## *I'd Rather Be Birding* June Osborne

**Adventures of a Birder**  
Review by Sally Dooley

Birding is the fastest growing avocation in the United States today, and novices as well as accomplished birders will enjoy reading June Osborne's experiences and insights into this challenging hobby. (I write "hobby" but obsession may be the better word choice. What else can one call it when birders travel with difficulty all over the world in order to add some exotic birds to a "life list"?) This collection of charming essays grew from columns written over many years for the *Waco Tribune-Herald* and *Waco Citizen* and contributions to *WildBird* magazine. Osborne taught bird identification courses, led tours, and taught at Elder hostels. Over the years she wrote three books: *The Cardinal*, *The Ruby-Throated Hummingbird*, and *A Birder's Guide to Concan, Texas (And Surrounding Area)*. Her reverence for nature, her keen observations, and her personal reflections on life are revealed in the three groups of essays. "Exploring the Backyard" helps the beginner to become aware of bird life, even if only in one's back yard. "Travel Is for the Birds" recounts adventures worldwide to birding "hotspots." Finally, "In Love with a River" is a tribute to her favorite spot in the Texas Hill Country along the banks of the Frio River. A delight to read, this book of memories will instruct as well as entertain.



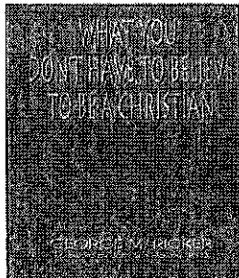
OSBORNE, JUNE. *I'D RATHER BE BIRDING*. COLLEGE STATION: TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2004. 177 PP. ILLUSTRATIONS. \$24.95 CLOTH. ISBN 1-58544-292-5. 2003012959.

## *What You Don't Have to Believe to Be a Christian* George M. Ricker

**How to Meet Jesus Again for the First Time**  
Review by Sally Dooley

In our postmodern world, many people question traditional Christian doctrines. Rather than have them as obstacles to faith, George M. Ricker, a Methodist pastor, examines many tenets of Christianity alongside current scholarship. "Doctrinal rigidity is holding fast to what has been believed by many Christians in times past but which is now questioned because of changes in cosmology and anthropology as well as linguistic, philosophical, and historical studies." Following a foreword by Betty Sue Flowers, Ricker addresses varied topics that can be understood in different ways: Adam and Eve, The Virgin Birth, The Blood of Jesus, Life after Death, and The Trinity, to name a few. Ricker ably distills the work of Marcus Borg, Joseph Campbell, Karen Armstrong, and John Shelby Spong among others. He is not intent on convincing readers to give up their faith but to examine it anew. Flowers believes the real value of the book will be to those who have found the Christian creeds incredible or who left the church with unanswered questions. Each chapter closes with this sentence: "This is what many believe about what they do not have to believe."

Written for a broad audience, the book has few footnotes but is well grounded in both scripture and current scholarship. An appendix makes the book an excellent resource for group study in or out of the church. The bibliography offers further reading. No doubt the book will upset many people, while simultaneously providing relief for others.



RICKER, GEORGE M. *WHAT YOU DON'T HAVE TO BELIEVE TO BE A CHRISTIAN*. AUSTIN: SUNBELT EAKIN PRESS, 2003. 119 PP. BIBLIOGRAPHY, ILLUSTRATIONS, NOTES. \$16.95 PAPER. ISBN 1-57168-762-9. 2002116063

## *The Archetypal Imagination* James Hollis

**Jung's Concept of Active Imagination Explored**  
Review by Sally Dooley

As another in the Carolyn and Ernest Fay Series in Analytical Psychology from Texas A&M University, this ninth publication continues to explore the psyche. James Hollis, director of the C.G. Jung Educational Center of Houston and a Jungian analyst, writes of the imagination as seen through the lens of Jung's theories on the spiritual aspects of life. In five dense but elegantly written essays, Hollis discusses the imaginings from different points of view: the archetypal, religious, literary, incarnational (visual art), and therapeutic.

Drawing on the groundbreaking work of Jung, with examples from the literature of many cultures and photographs of the artwork of Nancy Witt, Hollis points out the use of metaphor as a method for healing the soul. Hollis states, "The archetypal imagination is the means by which we encounter the divine and how it may be reborn in us." David H. Rosen, the editor of the series, writes the book's foreword. Those interested in Jungian psychology, spirituality, and healing will appreciate the mental stretching necessary to enjoy this book.

HOLLIS, JAMES. *THE ARCHETYPAL IMAGINATION*. COLLEGE STATION: TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2002. 135 PP. BIBLIOGRAPHY, ILLUSTRATIONS, INDEX. \$16.95 PAPER. ISBN 1-55544-268-2.

## *Lone Star Literature: A Texas Anthology from the Red River to the Rio Grande*

Ed. Don Graham

**A Texana Literary Collection**  
Review by Sally Dooley

No one is better qualified to choose the essays, excerpts of fiction, and memoirs for this anthology than Don Graham, J. Frank Dobie Regents Professor of American and

(Continued on page four)

*In I'd Rather Be Birding*, June Osborne, a naturalist and freelance writer who resides in Waco, Texas, shares her thirty years of birdwatching experience. Her other publications include *Birders' Guide to Central Texas (and Surrounding Area)*, *The Cardinal*, and *The Ruby-throated Hummingbird*.

George M. Ricker is the former pastor of University United Methodist Church in Austin, Texas, and has taught at Southwest Texas State University. He presently serves as seminar director in the University of Texas SAGE and QUEST continuing education programs. He is the author of *The Faith Once Given*.

Don Graham is writer-at-large for *Texas Monthly* and the author of several books, including *Kings of Texas: The 150-Year Saga of an American Ranching Empire*.

Robert L. Uzzel holds a Ph.D. from Baylor University and currently serves as pastor of Forest Hill AME Church in Fort Worth. His articles on theological and historical subjects have appeared in numerous publications.



Sally Dooley, founding editor of *Review of Texas Books*, is a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin. She is a prolific reviewer who greatly respects Texas writers and their diversity.

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English Literature at the University of Texas at Austin. For many years Graham taught the course Life and Literature of the Southwest that Dobie initiated decades ago at UT. In addition Graham is a writer-at-large for *Texas Monthly* and author of several books, most recently *Kings of Texas: The 150-Year Saga of an American Ranching Empire*. Surveying the quantity of written word in Texas' long history, Graham focuses *Lone Star Literature* on a century of writing, 1903-2002, which covers the frontier years and leads to urbanization. Thus the pieces capture the realism, geography, and history, while revealing the mythology and legends that emerged.

After a foreword by perhaps the state's best known writer, Larry McMurtry, the book divides the state geographically: The West, The South, The Border, and Town and City. Sixty-three writers are thus grouped, thirty-eight of whom are still living. The earliest writings are ones J. Frank Dobie recognized as indigenous Texas literature and taught in his UT course: excerpts from Andy Adams' *The Log of a Cowboy* and John A. Lomax's *Cowboy Songs and other Frontier Ballads*. Other entries are those by Dobie, Roy Bedichek, and Walter Prescott Webb. Students of Texas history and literature will enjoy the pieces by writers throughout the century who are like old friends: familiar and loved. These might include Dorothy Scarborough, O. Henry, George Sessions Perry, William Owens, Tomás Rivera, and Katherine Anne Porter. Other writers like Elmer Kelton, Stephen Harrigan, Sandra Cisneros, Clay Reynolds, Pat Carr, Naomi Shihab Nye, and Jim Sanderson are well known in the state for their consistently fine work. Robert Caro, Molly Ivins, Kinky Friedman, Larry King, and Mary Karr enjoy fame and fortune from their national best sellers. One of the real joys of the book is the discovery of lesser known authors, Gertrude Beasley, Peter LaSalle, Americo Paredes, C.C. White, and Mary Ladd Gavell who was unpublished until after her death. Cormac McCarthy's work is conspicuous in its absence, but a limitation of copyright prevents its inclusion.

Notes on contributors complete the book, but it would have been helpful to have the brief biography of the writer accompanying each piece. Graham's discriminating taste and knowledge of Texas writers present Texas readers and others with hours of pleasurable reading and a canon to refer to for future reading of their other works. Thank you, Dr.

Graham. This is a must for all public, university, and high school libraries.

GRAHAM, DON, ED. *LONE STAR LITERATURE: A TEXAS ANTHOLOGY FROM THE RED RIVER TO THE RIO GRANDE*. NEW YORK: NORTON, 2003. 733 pp. \$29.95 CLOTH. ISBN 0-393-05043-2.

## *Blind Lemon Jefferson: His Life, His Death, and His Legacy* Robert Uzzel

Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Texan Influences  
American Blues and Jazz  
Review by Dale Farris

Author Uzzel (pastor, Fort Worth's Forest Hill AME Church) presents the fascinating story of Blind Lemon Jefferson, the largest-selling African-American blues singer in the U.S.

Between 1926 and his untimely death in 1929, Blind Lemon Jefferson was the largest-selling black blues singer in the United States. Blind from birth, Lemon wandered the streets of Wortham, Groesbeck, Marlin, and Kosse in Central Texas, playing his guitar and soliciting contributions on the street with his tin cup. In 1912 he caught a train for Dallas, where he performed in the Deep Ellum district, and in 1925 he was discovered by a talent scout for Paramount Records, and he moved to Chicago. Between 1926 and 1929, Lemon recorded more than a hundred titles and traveled extensively. His musical influence was widespread, affecting white and black musicians alike and extending to musical forms other than the blues.

Uzzel first presents a concise chapter on the historical context of the career of Blind Lemon Jefferson, placing the musician in the heart of the American blues and jazz music genres. Drawing on scant archival records, Uzzel also describes Jefferson's life as a blind, black man in early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Central Texas, adding informative remembrances from many of Jefferson's friends and musician associates.

Being black and blind, it is little wonder that Jefferson did not receive any formal education, much less any opportunity to even learn to read Braille. None of his medical records, if such ever existed, have survived, so it is uncertain the full extent of his visual impairment.

There can be no doubt, however, that Jefferson was blessed with a natural gift of musical expression, and as a teenager, he

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mastered the guitar. Before he was twenty, Jefferson was singing for picnics and parties at farmhouses near Wortham and in the surrounding area, and he was as comfortable playing in churches as at town functions. He regularly mediated between the religious culture and the blues culture, finding his place in both worlds. His diversity ranged from tent revivals, to medicine shows, and finally to national acclaim when he began work in 1912 for a recording studio in Chicago.

Jefferson sang from memory, and on the majority of his records, accompanied himself on the guitar. He has been called the first truly great male blues singer to record and the most influential and widely known blues musician before the Leroy Carr-Big Bill Broonzy era.

His early Chicago work has been described as the beginning of a remarkable series of records which preserve the blues in its folk form at the point of transition from the field holler to the street corner and the barroom floor. While recording in Chicago, Jefferson returned at various intervals to Dallas, and during his entire career he traveled extensively.

In 1928, Jefferson recorded his most famous tracks, "Piney Woods Money Mama," and on the flip side, "Low Down Mojo Blues." He eventually recorded over one hundred titles, mainly for Paramount, and many were not only best-sellers in their time, but they were also featured in display ads in the Chicago Defender and other major northern newspapers. Eventually, his music developed into blues standards, reissued and copied by later generations of blues and folk singers.

Today, at 2805 Main Street in the once defunct and later revived Dallas Deep Ellum area, there is a night club called the Blind Lemon Urban Bar and Bistro. One of America's outstanding musicians, Jefferson's music influenced Louis Armstrong, Bix Beiderbecke, Tommy Dorsey, Harry James, Bessie, and other great artists. This fascinating, concise story of Jefferson's life will likely stimulate further research into the life of this important Texan's influence on American blues and jazz.

Highly recommended for all university music collections and for public libraries in the Central Texas area.

UZZEL, ROBERT. *BLIND LEMON JEFFERSON: HIS LIFE, HIS DEATH, AND HIS LEGACY*. AUSTIN: EAKIN PRESS, 2002. 120 PP. APPENDICES, BIBLIOGRAPHY, ENDNOTES, ILLUSTRATIONS, INDEX. \$17.95 PAPER. ISBN 1-57168-656-8.

## Texas Money: All the Law Allows Mona D. Sizer

How Very Rich Texans Made Their Fortunes

Review by Dale Farris

Mona D. Sizer, author of *The King Ranch Story*, *Texas Politicians*, *Texas Justice*, adds yet another title to the genre of Texas popular history with her latest title that focuses on nine famous Texas billionaires. The Texans worth billions covered in the title include Howard R. Hughes, Jr., Oveta Culp Hobby, Glenn McCarthy, Mary Kay Ash, Haroldson Lafayette Hunt, Jr., H. Ross Perot, Comer Cottrell, Antonio Rodolfo Sanchez, Jr., and Michael Saul Dell.

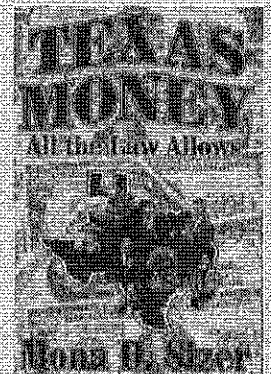
Rather than an analysis of the business acumen of the billionaires, instead Sizer explores their extraordinary lives and reveals not only how they made their fortune but also what they did with it. Her definition of being a "rich person" is when, according to social observer George G. Kirsein, the person enjoys "total economic freedom," a state of being when the persons need never think about whether they can afford anything, an economic state that certainly applies to these nine selected famous Texans.

Aided by numerous unreferenced sources that are listed in the bibliography, Sizer's stories serve as concise biographies of these famous Texans, and each story addresses the people's early lives, significant life events that molded their characters, their early ventures into business, the early failures, as well as the successes, the events that presented some of these famous personalities on a national level, and the current state of their lives as of the release date of the book. Helping set apart these brief bios is the ability of the author to weave into each story the significance of a party in the beginning of each essay.

Of Howard Hughes, readers will learn that he died with hypodermic needles broken off in his arms, and of Mary Kay Ash, readers will learn that when she was in elementary school, she cared for her tubercular father while her mother worked fourteen hours a day in a café. Other fascinating tidbits include H. Ross Perot's staging of the rescue of his EDS executives from a jail in Iran when President Carter could not get his diplomats out of their own embassy, and Michael Dell's starting his

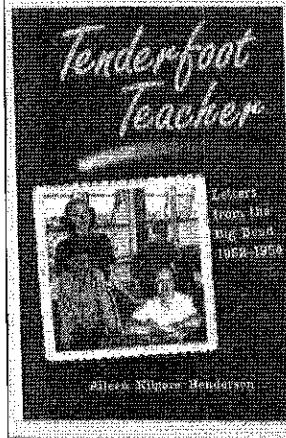
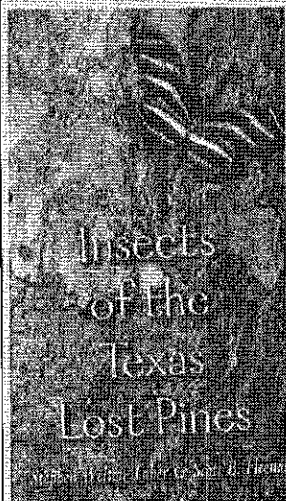
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Mona D. Sizer is also the author of *Texas Politicians: Good 'n' Bad*, *Texas Justice: Bought and Paid For*, *Texas Heroes: A Dynasty of Courage*. All of her books are available from Republic of Texas Press and most bookstores. Sizer lives in Harlingen, Texas, with her husband.



Dale Farris holds a master's degree from the University of Texas at Austin and a bachelor's degree from Lamar University. He is a professional reviewer for *Library Journal*, *Quality Press*, and *Quality Progress* magazine. He is completing a degree in computer information systems.

Stephen Welton Taber's two previous books, *Fire Ants*, and *The World of Harvester Ants*, were also published by Texas A&M University Press. Scott B. Fleenor is an avid insect collector and photographer. Both authors live in Austin, Texas.



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fortune while in high school.

These extraordinarily wealthy Texans have earned fame across the country, if not the entire world, and Sizer does a good job of providing just enough background, as well as tasty trivia, about the lives of these exclusive Texans. Sizer's work best serves as an informal supplement to the professional biographies and business analyses of these selected personalities that have been released, and are expected to continue to be released in the future.

Recommended only for public libraries.

SIZER, MONA D. *TEXAS MONEY: ALL THE LAW ALLOWS*. BLUE RIDGE SUMMIT: REPUBLIC OF TEXAS PRESS, 2003. 272 PP. BIBLIOGRAPHY, ILLUSTRATIONS, INDEX. \$18.95 PAPER. ISBN 1-55622-926-7. 2002006363.

## *Insects of the Texas Lost Pines*

Stephen Welton Taber  
Scott B. Fleenor

An "Insectiary" of Invertebrates of Central Texas's Lost Pines  
Review by Dale Farris

Authors Taber (*Fire Ants*, *The World of Harvester Ants*) and Fleenor, insect collector and photographer, take readers into the isolated pine forest on the eastern edge of Central Texas, wherein lies an island of abundant and diversified life known as the Lost Pines. Separated from the rest of Texas' East Texas pine forests by more than one hundred miles, the Lost Pines marks the westernmost stand of the loblolly pine and is a refuge for plants and animals more typically associated with the southeastern United States., where the tree originated. Now surrounded by pastures and scattered oak woodlands, the Lost Pines supports a remarkable ecosystem, a primeval sanctuary amidst the urban bustle of nearby Austin, Bastrop, Elgin, and Smithville.

In this 100,000-acre island, which includes portions of Bastrop and the Buescher State Parks, the authors found an astonishing diversity of insect life. Setting out to identify and describe the insects most readily observed, they also discovered other hidden, rare, and never-before-described species. The result is this fascinating "insectiary" of scientific information on more than 280 species of invertebrates, including insects, millipedes,

centipedes, spiders, scorpions, mollusks, and worms.

The authors begin with an extensive geological history of the formation of the Lost Pines and follow with entertaining, always interesting information on the selected species. Each species description includes both the common and the scientific name, information on the biology, distribution, similar species, and special remarks from the authors. Since many of the animals found in the Lost Pines occur outside the forest, this title is also a useful guide to Texas invertebrates in general.

The thorough index is cross-referenced with both common and scientific names alpha sorted, and the scholarly bibliography is an excellent tool for use in locating many other related titles. The extensive photos include images of the species captured in its natural habit, along with close-up images of the mounted insect.

The authors' exhaustive efforts to provide a solid, scientific work included searching the Geological and Life Sciences libraries of UT-Austin, including its books and journals, using ILL for other works, searching Biological Abstracts for scientific names, plowing through identification keys constructed by scientific authorities, and searching the Ovid Internet service. Their research took them back to material as far back as 1970s journals and has produced a solid work that will fit both in the laboratory, as well as in all Texas university library collections.

Highly recommended for all university and public library science collections, especially in the Central Texas area.

TABER, STEPHEN WELTON, AND SCOTT B. FLEENOR. *INSECTS OF THE TEXAS LOST PINES*. COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2003. 296 PP. APPENDIX, BIBLIOGRAPHY, ILLUSTRATIONS, INDEX, MAPS. \$24.95 PAPER. ISBN 1-58544-236-4.

## *Tenderfoot Teacher: Letters from the Big Bend 1952-1954*

Aileen Kilgore Henderson

Teacher Shares Poignant Letters About Her  
1950s Big Bend Teaching Experience  
Review by Dale Farris

Juvenile fiction author Henderson (*Treasure of Panther Peak*), shares heart-warming tales about her two-year (1952-1954) teaching experience  
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with the Panther Junction ISD located in the heart of the Big Bend National Park. Henderson shares with readers ninety-eight of the personal letters she wrote to family and friends, with the letters organized into her two teaching years of 1953 (August 1952 through July 1953) and 1954 (September 1953 through May 1954).

In January 1952, Aileen Kilgore was teaching forty-three fourth graders at a public school in Northport, Alabama. Her life, filled with lesson preparations, in-service meetings, county-wide meetings, and special projects, seemed grim, and she resolved to change it. Remembering tales she had heard of the Big Bend region in Texas, she wrote to the school board at Alpine, applying for a position. To her surprise, an offer came back to teach at a new school within the Big Bend National Park, the Panther Junction school, and she quickly accepted.

At first overwhelmed by the wildness, the limitless space, and the isolation that is the Big Bend, as well as her new exuberant Texas children, the author soon came to love the area and the people, clearly evidenced in these fascinating letters. During her first year at Panther Junction, she met her future husband, a special ranger, who was transferred away to another park not long after she had relocated to Southwest Texas, and many of her letters are to her husband.

During her two years at Panther Junction, the author wrote long and frequent letters to her father, her mother, her sisters, and her eventual husband, and the edited letters make up the book. The letters are personal in nature and reveal details of many of her experiences with countless community barbecues and dances, rafting trips, mountain and canyon hikes, and her new taste experiences with skunk and owl. She also came to recognize the unique natural wonder of Big Bend, as indicated in her letters in which she discusses the fascinating world of plants and trees that make up the region.

Henderson's reminiscences of life as a public school teacher in a small, West Texas community in the early 1950s will warm the hearts of public school teachers throughout Texas and will be of interest to aging Baby Boomers. The included black and white photographs further enrich these letters that together describe a way of life in a time gone by but fondly recalled.

This title nicely supplements other similar works of personal remembrances of life in Big Bend, including J.O. Langford's *Big Bend: A*

*Homesteader's Story*, Walter Fulcher's *The Way I Heard It*, Virginia Madison's *The Big Bend Country of Texas*, and Etta Koch's more recent *Lizards on the Mantel*, *Burros at the Door*.

Recommended for all Texas public libraries, especially those in West Texas.

HENDERSON, AILEEN KILGORE. *TENDERFOOT TEACHER: LETTERS FROM THE BIG BEND 1952-1954*. FORT WORTH: TEXAS CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2002. 162 pp. ILLUSTRATIONS. \$15.95 PAPER. ISBN 0-87565-264-6.

## Horned Lizards

Jane Manaster

Book Answers Layman's Questions about "Horny Toads"

Review by Mary M. Fisher



This illuminating little book devoted to one of Texas' most loved yet least understood denizens answers just about any question the layman might reasonably ask about what are commonly known as horny toads.

The author, who has also chronicled another Texas icon, the pecan tree, begins by describing the thirteen horned lizard species and the areas of the American Southwest that they populate. In subsequent, short chapters, she covers, among other things, behavior (like cats, ant-eating horned lizards twitch their tails when they spot their quarry), defense (yes, they DO squirt blood out of their eyes) and folklore (a lizard called "Old Rip" was said to still be alive after being removed from a cornerstone in Eastland County after thirty-seven years).

A concluding chapter covers conservation efforts for the charismatic creatures whose numbers have mysteriously dwindled in the past several decades. Among the culprits, says Manaster, are fire ants and pesticides, loss of habitat and off road vehicles.

Adding interest to the slender survey are twenty black and white and color images, among them a seventeenth-century illustration done for the Spanish royal court, an exaggerated postcard showing a greatly

(Continued on page eight)

Aileen Kilgore Henderson is the author of *Treasure of Panther Peak*, a juvenile adventure novel set in Big Bend National Park. She and her husband now live in her family home in Brookwood, Alabama.

Jane Manaster is a freelance writer and historian. She is the author of educational materials for Texas schools, historical organizations, and museums. Her other published works include *The Pecan Tree*. She lives in Austin, Texas.

Mary M. Fisher graduated with a master's degree in history from the University of Texas at Austin. She is an award-winning journalist now working as a school administrator and is the author of *Rosita's Bridge*.

Tom Alexander is the author of two other books on Texas military history, volumes one and two of *The Stars Were Big and Bright*. Alexander received his flight training in Texas, served as captain in the U.S. Air Force and a major in the Illinois Air Guard. He currently lives in Fredericksburg, Texas.

Dale L. Walker is the recipient of the Year 2000 Owen Wister Award from Western Writers of America, Inc. for Lifetime Achievement in Western History and Literature. He has written *Legends and Lies*, *The Boys of '98*, *Theodore Roosevelt and the Rough Riders*, and *Eldorado* among others.

Dr. Howell H. Gwin, Jr. is professor of ancient and medieval history at Lamar University. His interests include music, aviation, medical education, and reading fiction.

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enlarged horned toad with a comely young woman riding on its back, and a colored photograph of a female leaving a clutch of just-laid eggs.

Thanks to easy-to-read prose and lively illustrations, this engaging primer will appeal to adults and young readers alike. Recommended for school and home libraries.

MANASTER, JANE. *HORNED LIZARDS*. REVISED EDITION. LUBBOCK: TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2003. 84 PP. ILLUSTRATIONS. \$15.95 PAPER. ISBN 0-89672-495-6. 2002032366.

## *The Wings of Change: The Army Air Force Experience in Texas during World War II* Thomas E. Alexander

**Into the Air, Army Air Corps**  
Review by Howell Gwin, Jr.

One of the greatest contributions of Texas to the World War II war effort was the sixty-five training bases established in the state between 1940 and 1945. This book tells the story of their origins, their careers and their disappearance.

In 1939, the lingering effects of the Depression made it possible for President Roosevelt to argue the economic as well as the strategic benefits of establishing new air force training bases. Texan political leaders like Senators "Pappy" O'Daniel and Lyndon B. Johnson were able to have many of these new airfields built in Texas. Local chambers of commerce and civic clubs recognized both short-term and long term benefits of the military presence. Established sites such as Kelly (San Antonio), Love (Dallas), and Ellington (Houston) were greatly expanded.

This book gives the origin and a brief history for each facility. The author also describes the long-term impact of these bases on Texas. For example, the entry of thousands of "aliens" made it possible for Texas to compress generations of social change into a short period. By uprooting long-time customs and prejudices (as with the Valley bases and their Hispanic workers), Texas avoided some of the worst social conflicts of the post-war years. Also, the return of many trainees helped increase Texas' population by 15% by 1950.

And finally, many cities prolonged their economic advantage by taking advantage of base facilities even after the bases had been deactivated.

This is an excellent book. It is carefully researched, thoughtfully composed, and clearly written. Anecdotes and personal recollections contribute to the utility of the book as well as to the pleasure of reading. Mr. Alexander's enthusiasm and respect for his subject are quite evident. Photographs and maps add to the book's value. It belongs in all public libraries and secondary-school libraries.

ALEXANDER, THOMAS E. *THE WINGS OF CHANGE: THE ARMY AIR FORCE EXPERIENCE IN TEXAS DURING WORLD WAR II*. ABILENE: MCWHINEY FOUNDATION PRESS, 2003. 229 PP. ILLUSTRATIONS. \$29.95 CLOTH. ISBN 1-893114-35-X.

## *Westward: A Fictional History of the American West*

Dale L. Walker, editor

**Myths and Legends Come Alive**  
Review by Max Loges

*Westward* surely lives up to its billing as fictional history of the early west. The stories are arranged in chronological order; the first stories are about events that occur early in the history of the West, such as the first Indian encounter with a mounted European and the Lewis and Clark Expedition. The final stories are about events coming at the end of the nineteenth or early twentieth centuries, such as the murder of John Wesley Hardin and the killing spree of Rafael Lopez. This fictional history is comprehensive in that it covers, in some fashion, the big events associated with the West: the Alamo, the California Gold Rush, the Mountain Meadows and Sand Creek Massacres, the Great Blizzard of 1885, and, of course, the Battle of the Little Bighorn. Likewise, most of the legendary characters either narrate or are the subject of one of the stories. These include such notables as Jedediah Smith, Jim Bridger, Rip Ford, Libbie Custer, Crazy Horse, Doc Holiday, and Buffalo Bill.

*Westward* is sure to satisfy every reader's  
(Continued on page nine)



(Continued from page eight)

stylistic tastes. Some stories follow a very traditional time line whereas others are told in the form of flashbacks. In addition, the stories do not exclusively present a man's world. Five of them are either about women or are told from a woman's point of view. Perhaps best of all, *Westward* is a sampling of the finest in contemporary western fiction. Any reader looking for a new author to explore can obtain a brief introduction to him/her in this collection. I, for one, found several authors whose works I plan to examine further. Without qualification, I recommend this work.

WALKER, DALE L. ED. *WESTWARD: A FICTIONAL HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN WEST*. NEW YORK: FORGE, 2003. 432 PP. \$25.95 CLOTH. ISBN 0-765-30451-1.

## *The Long Way West* Hershell H. Nixon

Old Enough for This?

Review by JoAn W. Martin

George Wend, seventeen, considered himself old enough to be independent. When his father arranges a marriage for him with a neighbor's daughter, George leaves his home in Pennsylvania and heads for Oregon. After spending the winter working at St. Joseph, he has saved enough money to supply himself for the long trip west. When he reaches the Bighorn Mountains, he meets an old mountain man, Woody. George realizes that Woody is very ill and intends to turn around and take him back to St. Joseph where he can get medical help. But it is too late. Woody dies after sharing with George his secret of a hidden cache of gold nuggets. Before dying he begs George to take all his gold back East to his sister, Emily, in upstate New York. George puts his own dreams on hold to help Woody. Although his father had accused George of avoiding his responsibilities, George knows the honorable thing to do is to turn around and fulfill a dying man's request regardless of the difficulties to himself.

Other less honorable men know of Woody's gold. George's journey back is filled with hostile Indians, crafty robbers and wagon trains headed west. He knows Henry Steadman is following him and trying to relieve him of the gold. Along with wanting to deliver the gold, George needs to succeed in his journey so that Woody's family will know that his life meant something. Consequently, Steadman's

sneaky tricks and the bravery of George intrigue the reader to the very last page.

NIXON, HERSCHELL H. *THE LONG WAY WEST*. LUBBOCK: TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2003. 175 PP. \$16.95 CLOTH. ISBN 0-89672-508-1.

## *Spies, Lies, and Alibis: The Disintegration of a CIA Family*

Mary Ellyn Hazen

The Truth Behind the Life

Review by JoAn W. Martin

The field of intelligence gathering is at the forefront of current news. The popularity of spy novels, undercover stories, and covert operations proves that readers want to live such exciting lives vicariously. Mary Ellyn Hazen has shared her life with all the disappointments and scandal in an open and frank manner. She begins as a young woman from sleepy little Elk City, Oklahoma, working in the exciting city of Washington, DC, just before the attack on Pearl Harbor. She had a Civil Service job in RFC (Reconstruction Finance Corporation) only two blocks from the White House. Bob Hazen was pleased to find a "nice" girl from Oklahoma. However, their courtship of music and merriment ended when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. After Bob got his commission in the Navy, they decided to marry. He accepted a position with the newly-created Central Intelligence Agency and was sent to Uruguay.

Montevideo, Uruguay, was a beautiful city with sandy beaches on the Atlantic Ocean and many South American eccentricities to learn. In addition to language and customs, Mary Ellyn had to learn the protocol of the diplomatic life. Mary Ellyn's life reads like current events that cover fifty years. Bob's services as a CIA attaché kept the family moving from one country to another. From Evita and Juan Peron's regime in Argentina, the Bay of Pigs fiasco, and President Kennedy's tour of Costa Rica, she lived through bizarre times, sometimes her life in limbo and danger as an American. As the wife of a diplomat-turned-spy, she often walked a tight rope, juggling diplomacy issues to place the United States in a good light with the poorer masses and the upper classes.

(Continued on page ten)

Hershell H. Nixon, a petroleum geologist, has co-authored with his wife, Joan Lowery Nixon, five science books for young readers. He also gives us a map of George's trek. *The Long Way West* is dedicated to Joan Lowery Nixon who passed away recently after a prolific career.

Mary Ellyn Hazen, a Houston resident, wrote *Spies, Lies and Alibis* to address the stress and destruction on an agent's family. Bob Hazen was devoted to his job and his country, but his family and friends were left out. This novel covers the nuts and bolts of an intelligence career that went awry.

JoAn W. Martin is a retired teacher from Baytown schools and the author of a young adult historical novel, *Yankee Girl*. She has published thirty-five articles and numerous book reviews.

Diane Gonzales Bertrand is the author of numerous books. She is a lifelong resident of San Antonio, Texas, where she teaches at St. Mary's University. She is also writer in residence at the university.

Alex Pardo DeLange was born in Caracas, Venezuela and was raised there and in Buenos Aires, Argentina before coming to the United States. She is a graduate of the University of Miami with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree.

Francis Ramsey is a retired librarian from the Beaumont ISD. She received her B.S. in zoology from Kansas State University and received her library certification from Oklahoma State University. She is a frequent contributor to *Review of Texas Books*.

(Continued from page nine)

Bob was a man who began as a loving family man, but ended with affairs and drugs. He became paranoid and emotionally unstable. His temper became uncontrollable. Even when the American ambassador advised Mary Ellyn to take her children and leave Bob, she didn't, but later wished she had.

Bob's unexplained absences from the family, his failure to attend important social functions gave her the first indications that the situation was becoming serious. When he convinced his superiors that Mary Ellyn was employing communists and terrorists to murder him, she knew she had to take a stand.

HAZEN, MARY ELLYN. *SPIES, LIES, AND ALIBIS: THE DISINTEGRATION OF A CIA FAMILY*. HOUSTON: BLUEBONNETS, BOOTS AND BOOKS, 2003. 143 PP. \$18.50 PAPER. ISBN 0-9645492-7-9.

## *The Empanadas that Abuela Made: Las Empanadas que Hacia la Abuela*

Diane Gonzales Bertrand

**A Loving Family and Delicious Food**  
Review by Frances M. Ramsey

San Antonio writer Diane Gonzales Bertrand has produced another charming bilingual picture book about a warm family gathering. On each page spread, the title line accumulates another line about an ingredient or technique in preparing the treat and serving the extended family.

Illustrations by Alex Pardo DeLange are colorful and lively. Pumpkin vines and other ingredients of the empanadas border the pages. Both the text and the illustrations have a rollicking quality which will make the book fun to share with a child.

With the words in both English and Spanish, this may be a way to learn vocabulary in either language. Should the reader become hungry for empanadas, the recipe is included. Other books by Ms Bertrand include *Sip, Slurp, Soup, Soup/Caldo, Caldo, Caldo, Family/Familia, Uncle Chente's Picnic/ El Picnic de Tio Chente*, and *The Last Doll/La Ultima Muneca*. Spanish translations are provided by Gabriela Baeza Ventura. This

delightful bilingual picture book is highly recommended.

BERTRAND, DIANE GONZALES. *THE EMPANADAS THAT ABUELA MADE: LAS EMPANADAS QUE HACIA LA ABUELA*. HOUSTON: ARTE PUBLICO PRESS, 2003. 30 PP. ILLUSTRATIONS. \$14.95 CLOTH. ISBN 1-55385-388-X. 2002033323.

## *"Salvation" and Other Stories*

Terry Dalrymple

**It's a Keeper**

Review by Clay Reynolds

Terry Dalrymple's second book and first offering in adult fiction is a keeper. The ten stories in this volume represent Dalrymple's considerable talent and speak directly to the reader without any elitist or post-modernistic claptrap. The title story, "Salvation," a mildly humorous melancholy story of unrequited love and one man's confrontation with a faith he's not sure he embraces, sets the tone for a series of stories that expose the best and worst of people as they interact and walk the sometimes narrow paths between public propriety and personal priority. For my money, "Snow Angel" is the most powerful story in the series. This contemplative study of one man's attempt to reconcile grief and guilt with desire and the mysteries of life more closely resembles the "reality" of experience than any fiction I've read for a long time. A *tour de force* of storytelling, Dalrymple's narrative voice successfully brings together highly disparate emotions and melds them into a single emotional crisis that is as moving in its simplicity as it is difficult to forget. Other stories, particularly "The Last Time I Saw Lynn" and "Baylor Blackwell's Bible Planting Brigade" demonstrate Dalrymple's considerable range and depth at the same time. This is a delightful collection, one that is sure to please almost any taste or reader of short fiction. It's been long overdue, and it's a welcome addition to the Texas fiction shelf.

DALRYMPLE, TERRY. *SALVATION AND OTHER STORIES*. SPRING: PANTHER CREEK PRESS, 2004. 145 PP. \$16.95 PAPER. ISBN 0-9747839-0-0.



# *The Texas Guide: The Definitive Guide to the Lone Star State*

Gary James

## **Definitive Texas?**

Review by Clay Reynolds

Texas is a state with so much variety that sins of omission are inevitable in any travel guide. In this case, though, it seems that the author came no closer to many locations than their websites. Although billed as "definitive," this is a highly selective, exceedingly narrow book of personal recommendations. In total, James tends to reflect far too much his own taste and proclivities rather than address a more general appeal. On a practical level, the book is hard to use. Closely bound pages do not thumb well, and the font is so tiny that anyone without excellent reading vision and bright light will be straining to pick out particulars. James' focus, moreover, is almost entirely on urban centers, where a wealth of detailed information is available from multiple sources. His coverage of smaller towns or more out-of-the-way locales is thin and in many instances entirely absent. Recommendations for lodging and restaurants tend to focus on B&Bs, not everyone's ideal; in many cases, no alternatives are given; moreover, in some communities that have curious and excellent locally-owned eateries offering unique cuisine or atmosphere, he only suggests barbeque, often from some chain outfit. Even in metropolitan coverage, he concentrates on well-known or multi-location restaurants, many of which are owned by out-of-state chains and some of which have closed or changed locations. He fares no better on golf courses, omitting some of the better links in most areas and recommending a couple that have either closed or gone private. He misses the obvious often, particularly in the Hill Country and far West Texas, especially in terms of recommending out-of-the-way attractions and scenic opportunities or unique points of interest. Texas probably needs a new travel guide, one that penetrates website information and makes special suggestions. This isn't it.

JAMES, GARY. *THE TEXAS GUIDE: THE DEFINITIVE GUIDE TO THE LONE STAR STATE*. DENVER: FULCRUM PUBLISHING, 2003. 399 PP. ILLUSTRATIONS, INDEX, PHOTOGRAPHS, MAPS. \$21.95 PAPER. ISBN 1-55591-371-7.

# *Texas Smoke: Muzzle-Loaders on the Frontier*

C. F. Eckhardt

## **Muzzle-Loading Weaponry: More Fact than Fiction**

Review by Clay Reynolds

Anyone even mildly interested in the history of firearms probably has at least one shelf filled with various volumes detailing individual weapons, their origins and development. The annals of western writing are somewhat overcrowded with such books, many of which too often reflect more the authors' enthusiasm for the subject than any degree of concrete and reliable information or professional academic research. Frequently, gun collectors and hobbyshoppers tend to do little more than reinforce their opinions and preconceptions, for any serious researcher will discover that there is a great deal of contradictory opinion and evidence on the topic of firearms, much of it published in substantial format and by major houses. Venerable journalist and casual historian C. F. Eckhardt, though, here offers a straightforward, no-nonsense approach to the subject. This is a thin but highly informative and useful volume for anyone whose interest runs to muzzle-loading weaponry. Starting at the beginning, Eckhardt traces the development of powder-driven firearms all the way up to the development of the Colt's pistols and advent of the encased breech-loaded cartridge. His prose is clear, accessible, and in accord with at least the majority of historians, amateur and professional, who have written on the subject. Although some of his anecdotal notes are probably apocryphal, there is enough here of value to offset the author's acceptance of an occasional myth for a fact. Moreover, when some specific cannot be known for sure, he's not afraid to say so. Readers interested in this topic for either personal or professional reasons will want to put this volume out front. It probably would have been better served by a cloth edition, since paperback reference books, as which this will doubtlessly be most valuable, tend to become shopworn rapidly.

ECKHARDT, C. F. *TEXAS SMOKE: MUZZLE-LOADERS ON THE FRONTIER*. LUBBOCK: TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2001. 128 PP. ILLUSTRATIONS, INDEX. \$15.95 PAPER. ISBN 0-89672-439-5. 00-011141.

Gary James is a native Texan who has traveled the state for more than thirty years developing stories for his award-winning TV show, *The Eyes of Texas*. He has coauthored six lone star state travel books and lives in Sugarland, Texas.

C. F. Eckhardt is the author of several books including *The Lost San Saba Mines* (1982), *Tales of Badmen, Bad Women, and Bad Places: Four Centuries of Texas Outlawry* (1999).

Clay Reynolds is Professor of Arts & Humanities at the University of Texas at Dallas. His published books include *Twenty Questions: Answers for the Inquiring Writer*, *Monuments*, and more recently, *The Tentmaker, Ars Poetica, and Threading the Needle*.

The late Tom Lea was born in El Paso and spent most of his life there. His drawings and paintings of the Southwest are as famous as his literary works. During World War II Lea was a wartime correspondent and artist for *Life* magazine. He is the author of *The Brave Bulls*, *The Primal Yoke*, *The Hands of Cantu*, and the two-volume history *The King Ranch*.

Readers interested in learning more about Tom Lea's life should consider *Tom Lea: Artist in Two Mediums*, a biography by John O. West. West is professor emeritus of English at the University of Texas at El Paso.

James M. Day is an attorney and has been a professor at the Washington College of Law at American University since 1983. He is the author of *What Every American Should Know about the Mid East and Oil*.

## *The Wonderful Country* Tom Lea

It's a Texas Tradition  
Review by Clay Reynolds

Number thirty-three in the "Texas Tradition Series," this reprint of one of Tom Lea's less seldom read volumes marks a high point in TCU's efforts to locate and celebrate major Texas novelists of yesteryear. Lea, of course, was one of Texas' most celebrated artists, but he was also one of the state's major writers at mid-century. A TIL-award winning novelist, he added this volume to his canon in 1952, and TCU's revival of it in a handsome facsimile edition marks a worthy addition to any Texana library. The novel itself, however, is not an easy read, even for the most enthusiastic western fan. Although Lea's trademark ear for authentic dialogue and masterful use of minor detail is to be admired, the plot is convoluted and annoyingly vague as it slowly unfolds. At the center of this story is Martin Brady, an American who has lived as a Mexican citizen for many years and who has fallen into company with the Castros, powerful Mexican *patrons*, who make use of him to gather arms for their revolutionary ends. Owing to a circumstantial accident, Brady is laid up for a while and soon begins to question his role as an instrument of foreign agents and to find himself truly a man without a country. In addition to this intrigue, there is a renegade Indian running about and a host of fascinating minor characters who flit in and out of the story. The flaw in Lea's writing is a desire to overcrowd both plot and situation with minor distractions and at the same time an annoying tendency to hold back important information from the reader, thereby creating a kind of artificial suspense. But this is also a mark of the style of the period in which he wrote. Far more valuable, though, is the use a reader can make of the book to discover personal as well as geographic details of the border country, and to revel in Lea's mastery of period idiom and dialect.



LEA, TOM. *THE WONDERFUL COUNTRY*. FORT WORTH: TEXAS CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2002. 394 PP. \$24.95 CLOTH. ISBN 0-87565-261-1. 2001057003.

## *The Black Giant: A History of the East Texas Oil Field and Oil Industry Skulduggery and Trivia* James M. Day

Everybody Wanted a Piece of the Action in the East Texas Oil Field  
Review by Jon P. Tritsch

Much has been written over the years about the well-known Spindletop oil strike of 1901, but perhaps not as much has been recorded about the later East Texas oil field discovery of 1930 until now. With his combined background in oil and gas law and Texas history, author James M. Day relates the background of the East Texas oil strike and looks at the colorful cast of characters involved in it.

Throughout the book, the focus is on two characters in particular: Columbus Marion "Dad" Joiner and Haroldson Lafayette "H.L." Hunt, Jr. The author describes Dad Joiner as a slick con man promoting oil-drilling schemes on unsuspecting investors. Joiner always maintained there was an ocean of oil in Rusk County in spite of geological reports saying otherwise. What will continue to be debated is whether it was a stroke of luck that oil was found in spite of a shady con game, or perhaps Dad Joiner really was correct in his assertions that oil existed in the region. H.L. Hunt is featured as a colorful, independent oilman who helped provide the financing to Joiner that finally brought in the Daisy Bradford No. 3 oil well. News of the gusher naturally attracted everyone's attention, especially the major oil companies. Author Day relates the shenanigans and conspiracies that the companies were involved with in their attempt to assert control over the field's oil production which would in turn influence the price of the commodity.

In all, *The Black Giant* is a fascinating look at a Texas oil boom, the effect it had on an economically depressed area of East Texas, and the scheming self-interests of individual and corporate parties. The book's appeal is further enhanced with many asides and "sidebars" of explanation and related trivia that the author generously provides throughout. Three pages of "Bibliography & Snide Remarks" provide a nice listing of titles for  
(Continued on page thirteen)



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further research, with a few "snide remarks" of annotation added for good measure. Some typographical gremlins did slip by the proofreaders. Some of the more glaring examples include a reference on page one to President James K. Polk as James J. Polk, World War I became Word War I on page forty-eight, and Texas Railroad Commissioner Kent Hance is called Kent Nance on page eighty. In spite of these gaffs, *The Black Giant* merits a strong recommendation for addition to the collections of all Texas public and academic libraries, especially for those in the Tyler, Kilgore, and Longview areas of East Texas.

DAY, JAMES M. *THE BLACK GIANT: A HISTORY OF THE EAST TEXAS OIL FIELD AND OIL INDUSTRY SKULDUGGERY AND TRIVIA*. AUSTIN: EAKIN PRESS, 2003. 133 PP. BIBLIOGRAPHY, INDEX. \$21.95 PAPER. ISBN 1-57168-616-9.

## *Sacrificed at the Alamo: Tragedy and Triumph in the Texas Revolution* Richard Bruce Winders

**A Macro-Historical and Military View of  
the Events Leading to the Siege at the  
Alamo**

Review by Jon P. Tritsch

Richard Bruce Winders, historian and curator of the Alamo, takes a different tact in his evaluation of the Alamo Siege and the events leading to it. In this book, his focus is more on the attitudes that the parties had toward centralized versus a federal type of government and the effects each had on the military aspects of the Texas Revolution.

Winders lays his groundwork by examining the warring factions in Mexico: one side favoring a centralized form of government (monarchical) as in most of Europe versus the opposing faction favoring federalism (republican) government like the United States model. He then explains the differences in military organization that each form of government followed. The military under the prevailing centralist government faction in Mexico was better organized and consisted of more regulars. In Texas, the colonists' more democratic fervor was for a limited military, composed of volunteers and organized on a limited basis of a short duration for frontier defense. In addition, these same attitudes of

limited government and frontier defense would prove to put the colonists at a disadvantage when faced with a better-organized Mexican army. The result was political infighting, indecisiveness, and a lack of military cohesiveness. These were factors that contributed to the ill-advised Matamoros Expedition and the tragedies at Goliad and the Alamo. Author Winders also goes into detail in describing the organization of the Mexican forces and artillery, the Texian forces and armaments, and provides a sketch of the layout of the Alamo garrison and the Mexican plan of attack of the fortress.

This book, number three in the Military History of Texas Series, has some illustrations and easy to read maps, plus an excellent bibliography of published primary sources, campaign memoirs, and campaign studies. Texas military history and Alamo devotees will want to read this book. Academic and public libraries should consider adding this title to their collections as well.

WINDERS, RICHARD BRUCE. *SACRIFICED AT THE ALAMO: TRAGEDY AND TRIUMPH IN THE TEXAS REVOLUTION*. ABILENE: STATE HOUSE PRESS, 2004. 167 PP. BIBLIOGRAPHY, ILLUSTRATIONS, INDEX. \$24.95 CLOTH. ISBN 1-880510-80-4. 2003-26227.

## *Texas and the Mexican War: A History and a Guide*

Charles M. Robinson III

**The Opening Shots of the Mexican War  
Occurred on Texas Soil**

Review by Jon P. Tritsch

This latest work of Texas history by author Charles M. Robinson discusses the role the newly annexed state played in the start of hostilities between the United States and Mexico to its conclusion with the American occupation of Mexico City. In only 109 pages, Robinson covers considerable ground in describing the events leading to the War, the battles fought in Texas leading to the capture of Matamoros, the campaigns into Mexico by Zachary Taylor, John Wool and other military personnel, and a final chapter on Winfield Scott and the Texas Rangers' involvement in the final campaign from Veracruz to Mexico City.

The book, published by the Texas State Historical Association and number 16 in the Fred

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*Richard Bruce Winders is historian and curator at the Alamo. He is the award-winning author of Mr. Polk's Army: American Military Experience in the Mexican War, Crisis in the Southwest: The United States, Mexico and the Struggle Over Texas, and Davy Crockett: The Legend of the Wild Frontier.*

*Charles M. Robinson III is a history instructor at South Texas Community College in McAllen, Texas. He is the author of thirteen books, primarily focusing on the American West. His book Bad Hand: A Biography of General Ranald S. Mackenzie won the Texas Historical Commission's R.R. Fehrenbach Book Award.*

Melanie Chrismer, a native Houstonian, is a descendant of the real Phoebe Clappsaddle. She is the author of *Phoebe Clappsaddle and the Tumbleweed Gang* (2002).

Virginia Marsh Roeder is a graduate of New York's Pratt Institute. She also illustrated *Phoebe Clappsaddle and the Tumbleweed Gang*.

Jon P. Tritsch, a frequent contributor to *Review of Texas Books*, works as a cataloger and helps develop collections for history and political science for the Gray Library at Lamar University. He holds an M.L.S. from Emporia State University and an M.A. from Sam Houston State University.

Janet K. Turk is a lecturer in the department of English and Modern Languages at Lamar University. She teaches freshman composition classes and sophomore literature classes.

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Rider Cotten Popular History Series, would be an excellent choice for anyone wanting to get a basic grasp of the Texas part of the Mexican War. It has illustrations from that period plus a nice map that details the areas covered by this section of the conflict. There is no formal bibliography, but the author does include extensive endnotes for additional research. In addition to being a history book, Robinson also provides "Then and Now" sidebar guides which mention how to get to these battle sites in both Texas and Mexico, describes what they look like, and the condition the sites have been maintained up to the present time. The State Historical Association's Cotten series are a great choice for both the researcher and the casual reader of Texas history. Books in the series go into just enough detail for the researcher while not overburdening the non-scholar who only wants a basic grasp of the subject. For the price, this book should be a "no-brainer" to purchase by interested individuals and by public and academic libraries. High school libraries may also want to consider this book and others published in the series as well.

ROBINSON III, CHARLES M. *TEXAS AND THE MEXICAN WAR: A HISTORY AND A GUIDE*. AUSTIN: TEXAS STATE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION, 2004. 109 PP. BIBLIOGRAPHY, ILLUSTRATIONS, INDEX, NOTES. \$9.95 PAPER. ISBN 0-87611-192-4.

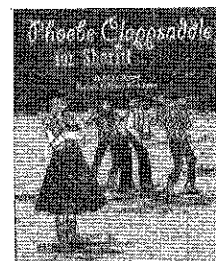
## Phoebe Clappsaddle for Sheriff Melanie Chrismer

Phoebe Clappsaddle rides to the rescue again after the governor asks her to officially welcome the new schoolteacher, Harriet Hornswaggle. Why is young Phoebe asked to perform this special duty? The area south of Big Spring, west of Marathon, north of Terlingua, and east of El Paso has no sheriff to welcome and escort the new arrival. While Phoebe is in the town of Buzzard welcoming the new teacher, the Tumbleweed Gang arrives at Phoebe's ranch. The young men expect to be taught some of her Southwestern skills after turning in their homework to her because this reward is something she had previously promised them if they practiced reading and completed their homework. When the gang believes that Phoebe has broken her promise,

the three brothers go on a rampage in Buzzard. Of course, Phoebe must thwart the gang and teach them some respect.

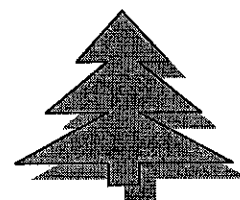
Who other than Phoebe can lasso a runaway stage coach while remembering to keep her pinky daintily upright as a lady would if she were sipping tea? No one can. Chrismer has created a delightful character in Phoebe. The cowgirl reads, writes, brands cattle, cans prickly pears, and rounds up hooligans, all the while remembering to use proper manners and lady-like behaviors. The characters in the story are further enhanced by the bold, thoroughly detailed illustrations offered by Virginia Marsh Roeder.

This juvenile book is strongly recommended for all parents and grandparents who tire of repetitious picture books, all elementary school libraries and classrooms, and public libraries.



CHRISMER, MELANIE. *PHOEBE CLAPPSADDLE FOR SHERIFF*. GRETNA: PELICAN PUBLISHING COMPANY, 2003. 30 PP. ILLUSTRATIONS. \$14.95 CLOTH. ISBN 1-58980-127-X.

Seasons Greetings from everyone at *Review of Texas Books*. We appreciate your continued support.



## *The Indian Texans*

James M. Smallwood

## *The Mexican Texans*

Phyllis McKenzie

## *The European Texans*

Allan O. Kownslar

## *The African Texans*

Alwyn Barr

## *The Asian Texans*

Marilyn Dell Brady

### **Texans All: A Series from the Institute of Texan Cultures**

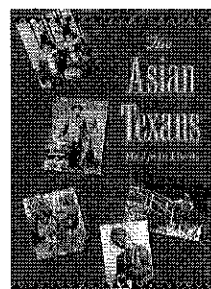
Review by Jon P. Trisch

Beginning in 1970, the Institute of Texan Cultures began publishing a series of pamphlets and mostly short monographs called "Texians and the Texans." Over the next twenty-three years, the series would survey about twenty-four different ethnic groups with a brief history and highlights of contributions each group has made to the Lone Star State. Some of these titles have been revised and reprinted while others are no longer in print or available for purchase. The Institute has now decided to update the old series in a new set of books published together as part of the new "Texans All" series.

These volumes are organized into the five distinctive cultural groups that have had the biggest impact on Texas: Native Americans or Indians, Mexicans, Europeans, Africans, and Asians. *The Indian Texans*, *The Mexican Texans*, and *The African Texans* primarily follow a chronological outline while *The European Texans* and *The Asian Texans* are first divided by region or country before going into a timeline similar to the other volumes.

The numerous maps, illustrations, and photographs from the Institute's collections make these volumes an enjoyable and informative read for everyone. It should be noted that *The Syrian and Lebanese Texans*, and *The Jewish Texans*, previously published in the older series, are not updated in the set.

Regardless, that should not be a major detraction from an otherwise excellent general survey of the many ethnic groups' melting pot contributions to Texas. All libraries, including school, should consider purchasing all of the volumes for their collections.



SMALLWOOD, JAMES M. *THE INDIAN TEXANS*. COLLEGE STATION: TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2004. 150 PP. \$10.95 PAPER. ISBN 1-58544-354-9. 2003-16360.

MCKENZIE, PHYLLIS. *THE MEXICAN TEXANS*. COLLEGE STATION: TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2004. 142 PP. \$10.95 PAPER. ISBN 1-58544-307-7. 2003-16366.

KOWNSLAR, ALLAN O. *THE EUROPEAN TEXANS*. COLLEGE STATION: TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2004. 197 PP. \$10.95 PAPER. ISBN 1-58544-352-2. 2003-16359.

BARR, ALWYN. *THE AFRICAN TEXANS*. COLLEGE STATION: TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2004. 127 PP. \$10.95 PAPER. ISBN 1-58544-350-6. 2003-16357.

BRADY, MARILYN DELL. *THE ASIAN TEXANS*. COLLEGE STATION: TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2004. 129 PP. \$10.95 PAPER. ISBN 1-58544-312-3. 2003-16358.

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