Editors' Choice: Playing in Shadows: Texas and Negro League
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A Deeper Blue: The Life and Music of Townes Van Zandt, Robert Earl Hardy

Texas Wildscapes: Gardening for Wildlife, Kelly Conrad Bender

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Sacred Memories: The Civil War Monument Movements in Texas, Kelly McMichael
Editors’ Choice: Playing in Shadows: Texas and Negro League Baseball

An Indisputable Influence
Review by Jerry Bradley

Of the fifteen Texans in the National Baseball Hall of Fame, eleven are African-Americans, and all but two of those (Joe Morgan of Bonham and Frank Robinson of Beaumont) have connections to the various black leagues that preceded the integration of the national pastime.

Baseball came to Texas shortly after the Civil War, and Rob Fink’s study documents the rise of black professional and semi-professional baseball in the state, noting that the first officially recognized game occurred in 1867. Segregation, however, kept blacks from participating nationally until 1885 when the Cuban Giants were formed. The first black team in Texas is unknown, although Galveston did field a team in the 1880’s.

The influence of black Texans on baseball is indisputable. “Rube” Foster, born in Calvert in 1879, went from Texas’s semiprofessional ranks to become the most important person in African-American baseball when he formed the Negro National League in 1920; the NNL grew into the largest black-owned business in the country. Rube’s half-brother, Willie Foster, was the top left-handed pitcher in Negro League history; called the “Black Cy Young,” Foster won more games than any other Negro League pitcher. “Smokey” Joe Williams of Seguin, nicknamed for his fastball, pitched more than thirty years. Willie Wells, a Hall-of-Fame shortstop from Austin, invented the batting helmet and cut a hole in the pocket of his glove to make it more flexible, thereby improving fielding. Hall-of-Famer Louis Santop, a Tyler native, was the first great black home-run hitter. Giddings-born Hilton Smith won twenty or more games in each of his twelve seasons. “Biz” Mackey, an Eagle Pass native, redefined the defensive skills of catchers and became Roy Campanelli’s mentor. Chicago Cub great Ernie Banks played for the Dallas Black Giants.

By 1950 the Houston Eagles of the Negro American League were all that remained of black professional baseball in Texas. They moved to New Orleans in 1951, and, following the lead of the major leagues, the Texas League integrated in 1952. Most of the black ballplayers in Texas, however, toiled in near anonymity, and Fink’s research – even though drawing exhaustively from accounts in black newspapers – labors to uncover much on these nearly-forgotten athletes. Consequently, how good these players were remains open to debate since league records were as sketchy as the leagues themselves. The teams constantly barnstormed and played exhibition games in addition to their scheduled league games, but head-to-head competition against big league stars suggests – and Fink affirms – they were every bit as accomplished as their white counterparts and should be remembered.
Texas Country Singers
Phil Fry
Jim Lee

Just Right for Your Pocket
Review by Jerry Bradley

Part of the Texas Small Book series, Texas Country Singers offers thumbnail biographies of twenty-five Texas performers. Given Texas's importance to the world of country music, the ability of co-authors Phil Fry and Jim Lee to reduce the list to twenty-five is remarkable indeed, and their introduction goes to considerable effort to explain the fitness of their choices.

As with previous books in the series (Extraordinary Texas Women, State Fare: An Irreverent Guide to Texas Movie), one of the delights of this little book is agreeing — and disagreeing — with the authors' selections. All the included singers were born in Texas, a methodology that excludes those who merely claimed Texas their home or earned their fame there. There are, of course, the requisite artists who could not be excluded: Ernest Tubb, Hank Thompson, Lefty Frizzell, Ray Price, George Jones, Willie Nelson, and George Strait. Bob Wills? Not a singer — but Tommy Duncan was and he's here. Buddy Holly and Roy Orbison? Too rock. Michael Martin Murphey? Western but not country. Delbert McClinton? Another rocker. Johnny Rodriguez? In. Billie Joe Shaver? Out. Don Walsen? In. Rodney Crowell, Lyle Lovett, Robert Earl Keen, Guy Clark? Out, out, out. Whatever disagreements may have been a necessary part of the book's process, it is good to see Milon Brown, Vernon Dalhart, and Moon Mullican reassessed and introduced to perhaps new audiences.

Another delight is found in the interesting biographical "trivia" Fry and Lee include. Did you know that Buck Owens was born Alvin Edgar Owens, Jr., in Sherman? Or that Sheb Wooley of "Rawhide"? "Purple People Eater" fame was brother-in-law to Roger Miller (born in Fort Worth) and gave him his first fiddle? Such tidbits, squeezed into a small format, make this book just right for carrying in your pocket.

The Philosophy of the Western
Jennifer L. McMahon, B. Steve, Csaki, eds.

Scholarly Articles on the Western Movies
Review by Emma B. Hawkins

As part of The Philosophy of Popular Culture Series, this book is a serious collection comprised of seventeen scholarly/academic articles that focus on the aesthetic qualities of western film/movies. The authors examine various aspects of western film in lights of different philosophies, such as those propounded by Aristotle, Emerson, Locke, Hobbes, Kant, Nietzsche, Sartre, Rousseau, and Heidegger. The editors, both of whom contribute an article, hope to encourage and promote further exploration in new areas rather than continued research of old familiar subjects that have been all but exhausted. Divided into four sub-divisions with three to four articles each, the various sections explore (1) the relationship between westerns and the identity of the hero, especially as a solitary figure; (2) the relationship between men and social organizations; (3) westerns that defy the standard code of the West by challenging moral absolutism, moral ambiguity and moral cynicism; and (4) westerns that focus on the "Other," westerns that do not emphasize the typical white male hero, but rather pay attention to the minority, fringe figures, especially those that have been marginalized, excluded, and misrepresented for years.

Two of the more interesting discussions are "No Country for Old Men," by William Devlin, that argues that the film No Country for Old Men "demonstrates a decline, or decay, of the traditional western ideal (222)," and "Beating a Live Horse" by Jennifer McMahon that explores the attitudes and behavior of humans toward horses.
From Birdwomen to Skygirls: American Girls’ Aviation Stories
Fred Brisman

Brisman’s book explores the portrayal of women in aviation (roughly years 1920-1960) through adventure stories written for young adult readers. He first carefully takes us through the evolution of the adventure story as a genre (with a nod to the “Bobbsey Twins,” “Nancy Drew” and “Hardy Boys” stories, among several others) and then moves into discussing adventure tales specifically dealing with aviation (including the Girl Aviator Series and Bess Moyers’ “Girl Flyers” books). The book is an excellent blend of historical context and analysis of how the female pilot became a popular presence in adolescent literature.

Much of the work details the history of women’s participation in aviation, particularly focusing on their work as aviators and stewardesses. Each chapter deals with a specific time frame (such as 1925-1940) in order to give adequate detail not only to the various literary publications but also to the true stories of famous female pilots who were instrumental in the emerging feminist movement and the creation of the “New Woman.” For example, Chapter three, “The Earhart Era,” discusses at length Amelia Earhart’s contribution to aviation through her well-publicized flights and her media savvy, but it also shows how Earhart helped to renew the public’s dormant interest in women’s participation in flying—an interest exemplified by the publication of such works as the “Airplane Girl” books and The Sky Girl, by Harrison Bardwell and Dorothy Verrill.

Brisman’s text is extremely well researched and serves as not only an exploration of the portrayal of the “aviatrix” in young adult fiction, but also as a good cultural history lesson focusing on aviation and gender in the twentieth century. From Birdwomen to Skygirls contains many illustrations and photographs; several of them are images of our earliest well-known female pilots, such as Harriet Quimby, a journalist and pilot known for her “purple satin flying suit” (54), Helene Dutrieu, and Matilde Moisant. This book is a fantastic read for those interested in a neglected aspect of women’s history in America and also those simply interested in reading about the exciting early eras of aviation.

Juanito Counts to Ten / Johnny cuenta hasta diez—A Bilingual Counting Book
Lee Merrill Byrd

Big Hearted Kisses!
Review by Andrea Karlin

Juanito Counts to Ten / Johnny Cuenta Hasta Diez is a bilingual book that counts sequentially from one to ten in English and Spanish. Beginning with one and building to ten, Juanito gives a kiss to each of our sister, daddy, momma, teacher, friend Birdie, hair cutter, reluctant friend Beatriz, stray cat, Baby Ed, and last but certainly not least, grandmother.

Simple but bold, colorful illustrations by Francisco Delgado give interesting perspectives that children should relate to and enjoy.

Saltypie: A Choctaw Journey from Darkness into Light  
Tim Tingle

Where Does Saltypie Come From?  
Review by Andrea Karfin

Saltypie: A Choctaw Journey from Darkness into Light is an unexpected and thought provoking multi-generational story written in a picture story book format that will appeal to and be more appropriate for older readers, not the traditional young children that many associate as the picture book audience. The story, written by award winning Choctaw writer and story teller Tim Tingle, gives insight into some of the cultural background of a Choctaw family as this very touching and personal story unfolds and as the reader learns where Saltypie comes from.

Karen Clarkson’s illustrations beautifully portray the emotions of the different family members both past and present and are a perfect compliment to the text. Ms. Clarkson is also a Choctaw tribal member.

Revelation Blind Willie Johnson: The Biography  
Douglas N. Blakey

The Greatest Singer from Texas  
Review by Yvonne Laberge, Ph.D.

According to biographer Douglas Blakey, singer Blind Willie Johnson (1897-1945) was born “in a small town called Independence near Brenham in Washington County, Texas” (p. 4). Because of his blindness, Blind Willie Johnson worked as a street singer for most of his life and despite his harsh voice, he regularly sang at his local Baptist Church, but also in the streets of Marlin, Temple, Waco, and Beaumont. His repertoire was made of spirituals, gospel, and perhaps even rural blues (although he did not record any blues song). Before the publication of this timely biography, little was known about him, and I remember being in the 1970s the liner notes of his first LPs on the Yazoo label (taken from his 78rpm collected recordings) included very few details about his difficult life and career; scholars in African American heritage were not even sure about his dates of birth and death.

This hard-to-find book, the only one ever dedicated to Blind Willie Johnson, does justice to this immense artist and moving singer: we find all the lyrics of the thirty songs he recorded between 1927 and 1930, with an analysis of his main themes and musical style, plus lots of biographical facts. This unique biography written by Douglas Blakey is with Blind Willie Johnson’s recordings as prerequisites ¼ are essential to understand how different and “African-rooted” were the early recordings of U.S. Black artists before the 1930s. With his powerful and gravelly chest voice coupled with his nervous guitar playing style (known as “bottleneck”), Blind Willie Johnson was a major influence for countless blues singers and guitar players, from Muddy Waters and Howlin’ Wolf to Ry Cooder.

Tim Tingle, a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, is a popular presenter at storytelling and folkore festivals across America. He was featured at the 2002 National Storytelling Festival. In 2004, he was a Teller-in-Residence at The International Storytelling Center, Jonesborough, Tennessee. Choctaw Chief Gregory Pinto has requested a story by Tingle previous to his Annual State of the Nation Address at the Choctaw Labor Day Gathering—a celebration that attracts over thirty thousand people—from 2002 to the present.

The following excerpt from D.N. Blakey is from DocumentRecords.com: “I have been asked to explain what motivated me into writing my book...well firstly of course is a love of the subject matter which for me goes back many years! I was always impressed and moved by the power that came across from Blind Willie’s records and wanted to know all I could about the man who created them.”


Review of Texas Books

The Majesty of the River Road
Lee Malone,
Paul Malone

Magnificent Mansions on the Mississippi River
Review by Yves Laberge, Ph.D.

This short, illustrated book presents a series of villas and mansions on the Mississippi River: from the Beauregard House to the Toceuco Plantation Home, near Darrow. Most of those were built around 1800, but the splendid color photographs of the outside and interiors were taken around 1988. The most interesting examples date from the eighteenth century, that is, during the French Colonial Period, when Louisiana's territory was as big as five states taken together as a part of New France. Among many luxurious sites, we see for instance the wonderful plantation home of Destrehan, near New Orleans, which was built in 1787 (p. 22) and the Mary Plantation Home, which dates from 1773 (p. 56).

This lavish book will be a treat for readers with an interest for architecture, design, furniture, and history of the colonial era. Paul Malone's photographs can magnify many of these wonderful mansions, their living rooms, bedrooms, and antique furniture. Potential tourists who plan to visit this region can organize their tours in advance and select some must-see sites, as many of these houses are now open to visitors. My only quibble would be about the spelling of some of the French words which are sometimes reproduced without any accent, like in "Belle Hélène" (p. 12).

Voices of Gettysburg
Sherry Garland

Echoes of the Past
Review JoAn W. Martin

Sherry Garland unerringly echoes the voices of Union soldiers and Southern Rebels. A Private in the Union Army asks about the rumors: where would they have to fight the crafty old gray fox, General Robert E. Lee?

Lee's anguish comes through when forced to leave his beloved Virginia to march to Gettysburg to fight for his homeland. Too many battles have devastated Virginia, and the fighting has ravaged other southern states. He hopes that once the North has "tasted the bitter harvest of war" as the South has, they will pressure President Lincoln for peace. He has every confidence that his warriors will be successful and the fighting would end.

A seventy-year-old citizen of Gettysburg adds his voice. He pulls up his musket and walks to the battlefield to help defeat the Confederates. A Gettysburg schoolteacher speaks from the church where the wagons have brought the wounded begging for water. She admits, "I will cry tomorrow; I do not have time to cry today."

A young soldier who carries the colors, a gunner in Battery B, a photographer, and a magazine artist express their horror for the Gettysburg tragedy.

In addition to the story seen through many eyes, the author captures the reader with colorful expressions: "hungry enough to eat a skunk," "confederate dollars as worthless as dirt" and "I prayed to God and Momma and our ol' dog, Blue."

Judith Hiestein's action pictures take the reader beyond the text: soldiers arguing, sad-eyed men wishing they were home. The illustrator's authentic horses and weapons depict soldiers dying to hold a piece of barren rock in silver fog and misty rain.

Shake On It and Spit in the Dirt
Lynne Gregg
Karen Jennings

Friendship Unites a Community
Review by JoAn W. Martin

Jon goes to spend the summer with his grandparents just as he has for years. This year, however, promises to be different. For one thing, rumors have it that there is a monster in the river that eats dogs, and Grandpa’s dog has been killed.

Patches welcomes a friendship with Jon, but when Grandpa finds out about Jon slipping out at night to explore the river, he forbids his association with the white boy and refuses to allow him out on the river at night. The boys talk about their problem with white folks living on one side of the river and black folks on the other: “Why can’t black and white folks get along like we do?” Hunting squirrels with Grandpa is great until Jon watches the process of skinning them.

On a trip to town Jon witnesses a white man shove Grandpa out of the way in the store. He doesn’t understand why he won’t stand up for his rights. When Grandpa gets seriously ill, more tragedy seems inevitable.

Readers will be lulled by the easy camaraderie of two eleven-year-old boys, but soon the adventure turns dangerous. Subtitled The Mystery on the Big Cypress River, the authors have quickened the suspense, and the reader must turn pages to find out how they will come out of this alive. The boys attempt the impossible in their decision to capture an almost mythical beast. They dig a pit to catch Hannibal, but a storm puts both of them at risk for their lives.

A celebratory parade is called for, and the two boys say, “Shake on it and spit in the dirt” as a pledge to always be friends. The authors use an epilogue to show how twenty years later this incident brought a divided community together.

Desert Days Desert Nights
Roxie Munro

Waldo in the Desert
Review by JoAn W. Martin

A Where’s Waldo book, the search in this oversized picture book is for the reader to find creatures in six North American deserts. Roxie Munro illustrates a list of 275 animals for the “critter-conscious” picture reader to locate. With pen and ink watercolors we find such an abundance of critters unbelievable. We can visit these various deserts in National and State parks to experience the magic, the mystery and romance of desert life. We have to look carefully. Some creatures like to hide.

The surprising information is that these areas with an average rainfall of less than ten inches a year can be so full of life. Readers can find, name and count the animals for day, then count the animals for night. Night and day desert drama!

Also included are such interesting fun facts. Scorpions get enough water from eating their prey; a horned toad can actually squirt blood from its eyes to startle attackers; the centipede usually has only forty legs, not one hundred; Two Bighorn sheep’s head-to-head fight might last twenty-four hours; Pronghorn Antelope can sprint sixty mph. Turn to the back of the book for fun facts, numerically color-coded answers and sources for further reading in books and websites.

Roxie Munro, author/illustrator of thirty-five books, does not consider herself a naturalist. She lives in New York City with one houseplant and a view from her 10th floor window of a few ginkgo trees. But her travels to difficult to reach places help her write books that will “motivate the earth-conscious spirit in all of us.” Best of all for the teachers and kids are activities at www.roxiemunro.com.


A Deeper Blue: The Life and Music of Townes Van Zandt
Robert Earl Hardy

Elements of an Artist
Review by Charles Popp

Robert Hardy does a very good job of giving us the overall events of Van Zandt's life. He starts with a chapter that firmly establishes Van Zandt as a member of one of the first families of Texas. We get a quick history of the founding of Texas and of Fort Worth. Van Zandt worked with Sam Houston, helped found a university, and had a county named after them.

All of this is quite interesting, but Hardy does not connect the dots. The connection between this almost royal family and the drug addicted mythical folk singer is not explained or delved into deep enough.

With the chapter where Van Zandt is confined in the Galveston Psychopathic Hospital, one of the doctor's ideas concerned Van Zandt's "feminine elements" (47). Not much more of this is made throughout the book. Was this one of the causes of his drug addiction—Hardy does not devote enough attention to this or many other elements of Van Zandt's life. This chapter ends with, "...he was very likely changed forever" (51). How was he changed? Again, Hardy missed a chance for some analysis of what made Van Zandt the tragic genius.

Several chapters follow which are dominated by dialogue from Fran Peters, Van Zandt's first wife. "...they paid for our apartment and food" (58). "...started playing...to get the ten dollars a night" (59). Statements like these and others make the book interesting from a superficial level, but Hardy's style leaves readers wanting to know more about why Van Zandt was as he was.

Hardy does give a very good and complete analysis of each of Van Zandt's albums, going into detail about what he thinks the songs mean and where they came from using quotes from people in Van Zandt's life to prove his point. If only Hardy would have used this style to connect the elements of Van Zandt's life; a good, if somewhat superficial biography, would have had much more weight.

Texas Wildscapes: Gardening for Wildlife
Kelly Conrad Bender

Gardening for Wildlife
Review by Frances M. Ramsey

This beautifully illustrated volume is an outgrowth of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's effort to replace lost wildlife habitat by utilizing urban landscapes. Beginning with the importance of wildscaping and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department programs to encourage changes in backyard plantings, the author continues with the differences in the ten ecoregions of Texas.

Methods of providing the basics of food, water, and shelter are outlined through plantings, extra feeders, or water features. Step by step suggestions are made for planning the space to accommodate both wildlife and family activities.

Bird box specifications are given for twenty-two different species. Birds common in Texas are discussed and illustrated. The chapter on hummingbirds includes two pages of plants which will attract these tiny flying jewels.

A chapter on mammals, reptiles, and Continued on page nine
Ms Bertrand, who has experience in San Antonio single gender parochial schools both as pupil and teacher, excels at revealing the anguish and joys of teenagers striving for acceptance and growth. The conversations, personalities, and events of high school life ring true. Developing relationships and unexpected events move the narrative at a quick pace.

What is the F factor? Is it fear of failure, fear of being a fraud, wondering who is a real friend, or comparison of a rich but distant family with a warm and supportive one? Each of these factors plays a part in an outstanding young adult novel that will enlighten and inspire. Highly Recommended.

**The F Factor**
Diane Gonzales Bertrand

*Dreaded Broadcasting Class Opens the Way to Respect and Growth*
Review by Frances M. Ramsey

Javier Avila, the acknowledged smartest sophomore in his Catholic boys' high school, dreads the new elective Media Broadcasting Class to which he has been assigned. When he and Pat Berlanga, who sleeps in most classes, are chosen to be the first anchors on the closed circuit telecast of morning announcements, he is upset and then surprised by the way they work together and become good friends. Upper class athletes antagonize the lowly sophomores until Javier and Pat earn their grudging respect and mutual understanding develops.

Confederate veteran Jeff Layne becomes disgusted with the buffalo hunters who take only the skins for eastern markets and leave

**The Far Canyon**
Elmer Kelton

*Is the Canyon for Buffalo, Comanches, or Cattlemen?*
Review by Frances M. Ramsey

According to the Afterword, Kelton's emphasis on "history as it was" rather than how "it should be" has made him unique among writers of western fiction. This sequel to *Slaughter* does this by revealing the attitudes and actions of Comanches, Mexicans, and Americans from both north and south.

Confederate veteran Jeff Layne becomes disgusted with the buffalo hunters who take only the skins for eastern markets and leave

Continued on page ten
Continued from page nine
carcasses to rot. He leaves Dodge City for his
former home in south Texas hoping to live in
peace on a cattle ranch. His newly married
partners, a young frontier woman and her
English husband, an old camp cook, and a rash
cowboy accompany him. He finds only strife
between Mexicans, cheated out of their home,
and his greedy, hate-filled long time enemy.
After renting grassland and collecting a large
herd of cattle, he and his partners with a crew
of cowboys move slowly north seeking a
canyon he has remembered fondly.

The army is trying to get all Indians onto
the reservation. Crow Feather and his young
family are separated from the rest of their
group as they move to winter camp. He
manages to secure a hidden camp in the
reservation with a rope around his
neck, he desperately keeps trying to escape to
take care of his family. Kelton summarizes
thus:
"In taking this herd up onto the plains, they
were opening a new doorway for Texas...
Once the buffalo were gone the Indians could
never return, and the Texas plains would open
for settlement as those in Kansas had. It would
be for future generations to argue the right and
the wrong of it. For Jeff's generation, few
except the Indians themselves would even
debate the point."
The hardships of life on the trail, joys of family
and friendship, and the tensions of distrust and
hatred impel the reader to the last page while
learning much about the cost of the life we
enjoy today. Highly recommended for all who
enjoy a real western.

COWBOY CONSERVATISM:
Texas and the Rise of the
Modern Right
Sean P. Cunningham
Transforming the Political Landscape in
Texas from Reliably Democratic to
Consistently Republican
Review by Jon P. Trutsch

It has not been too long ago that Texas was
truly a one-party Democratic state in elections.

"From the White House to the Court House"
has been a favorite electioneering slogan when
casting the ballot for Democrats on Election
Day. Obviously, something has been
happening that has changed the Lone Star
State's voting habits. In this book, Cowboy
Conservatism: Texas And The Rise Of The
Modern Right, Sean Cunningham explains how
this change has transpired during a twenty-year
stretch from the Kennedy years of the early
1960s to the election of Ronald Reagan in
1980. These were the formative years that laid
the groundwork for the rise of the modern right
as personified in the Republican Party.

Cunningham aptly describes the roots of
Texas's political culture: a tradition of
independence, loyalty to the Democratic Party,
and populist conservatism. Against this
backdrop was another key factor: the factional
power struggle within the Texas Democratic
Party between the conservative establishment
and the progressive liberals. By 1960, the New
Deal coalition uniting these factions was
beginning to show early signs of unraveling.
Texas liberals would show their protest against
conservative establishment candidates by
deliberately supporting and voting for the
Republican candidate or by simply staying
home on Election Day ("gone fishing for the
day.") This resulted in the breakthrough of
GOP candidate John Tower's election to the
United States Senate in 1961. The author
shows that by doing this, Texas liberals were
hoping to facilitate realignment in the parties:
they would have the state Democratic Party for
themselves and the conservatives could go to
the Republicans. The state's Republicans were
only too happy to oblige their counterparts
with their desires, but were too weak to
accomplish this alone. Still, it took the
occurrence of several events on both national
and state levels, plus some adroit campaigning
by Republican candidates, for this realignment
to take place.

Cunningham brings out several examples of
these key events: the explosive growth in the
state's economy that attracted the in-migration
of outsiders (e.g. "Yankees"), extremism of the
national Democrats and their politicians (e.g.
George McGovern), the "law and order" riots
of that time, relations with the Mexican
American voters, the influence of the Christian
right, the untimely in-state scandals involving
Democrat politicians (e.g. the Sharpstown
scandal), and John Connally's switch to the
GOP. However, it was the ineptness of the
Continued from page ten.
Carter administration in the late 1970s that
gave the needed push to establish the
Republican Party as a viable force in Texas polities. The election in 1978 of Bill Clements
as the first Republican governor in Texas since
Reconstruction (later elected again for a
second term in 1986) was further proof that
realignment was happening. But, more than
anything, it was Ronald Reagan that was the
catalyst for completing the transformation of
Texas into a two-party state. Reagan was
viewed as the mainstream populist in keeping
with the state's political culture of
independence and populist conservatism. As
for loyalty to the Democratic Party, it was also
Reagan who gave the GOP the respectability it
needed to be a player in Texas politics and aided the warring factions in the state's
political parties toward their goal of political
realignment.

Cowboy Conservatism: Texas And The Rise Of
The Modern Right is the latest addition to the
New Directions in Southern History series of
the University Press of Kentucky. The
bibliography and notes show the extensive
research that the author did for this excellent
work on the rise of the modern right in Texas
politics. This book should be a needed
addition for the political science and Texana
collections of all academic and public libraries.

Sacred Civil War Memories: The Monument
Movements in Texas
Kelly McMichael

A History and Listing of Civil War
Monuments in Texas
Review by Jon P. Trisch

It probably would not be wrong to assume that
one should be able to find a Civil War
monument in many parks, cemeteries and on
courthouse lawns throughout the South. Texas
is certainly not an exception as was shown by
writer Kelly McMichael in her book of Sacred
Memories. In her own words "This book tells
the story of these monuments, of the Texans
who erected them, and their reasons for raising
large sums of money to purchase memorials to
honor the Confederacy and the Union."

The first nineteen pages give an interesting
narrative on the history of the Civil War
monument movement and the various reasons
behind it. Contrary to popular belief, many of
these monuments were not erected until after
1900. In fact, the first monument, erected in
1866 in Compton, was actually a pro-Union
monument, Treue Der Union, commemorating
the massacre of German American Texans
trying to flee to Mexico to avoid taking up
arms against the Union. One other Union
monument is located in Denison and a third
monument, in New Braunfels, honors the
soldiers on both sides who perished in the
conflict. Besides honoring the dead, the
errection of war monuments had other side
benefits. It proved to be an economic boon for
communities, the monument industry and for
sculptors and stonecutters like Frank Teich and
Pompeo Coppini. In the rest of the book,
McMichael has ably identified and cataloged
68 public-initiated Texas Civil War
monuments and briefly describes the location
and history of each one.

This book, no. 19 in the Fred Rider Cotten
popular history series and published by the
Texas State Historical Association, should be
an easy purchase for all libraries. It certainly is
not expensive and the work is a good
documentation of a facet of local Civil War
history. Someone wishing to know the history
behind a particular Civil War monument fifty
years from now can consult this book. It
should not be going out-of-date anytime soon.
Reviewers

Jerry Bradley, a member of the Texas Institute of Letters, is professor of English at Lamar University. He is the author of 5 books, most recently *The Importance of Elsewhere* (poetry).

Emma B. Hawkins is Assistant Professor of Medieval English language and literature at Lamar University.

Sara Hill is Assistant Professor of Rhetoric and Composition at Lamar University. She teaches advanced composition, under-graduate level composition, and literature courses.

Andrea Karrin earned a Ph.D. in curriculum and reading instruction at the University of New Mexico and is associate professor of education specializing in children’s literature at Lamar University.

Yves Laberge is a Canadian scholar and architect, specializing in American studies, cultural studies, and museums, and the author of numerous articles and publications.

Joan W. Martin is a retired teacher from Beavertown schools and author of *Yankee Girl* and *Good Night, Mrs. Dingwall*. *Sleep Tight*! She has published numerous articles and book reviews.

Charles F. Popp, BA History and MA English, has taught ESL, technical writing, composition, and literature courses for more than twenty years. He is also an avid film buff and a collector of music for more than thirty years.

Frances M. 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.

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