Editors' Choice: Myth, Memory, and Massacre: The Pease River Capture of Cynthia Ann Parker, Paul H. Carlson and Tom Crum

A Dim Sum of the Day Before, Steven Schroeder

Empire of the Summer Moon: Quanah Parker and the Rise and Fall of the Comanches, the Most Powerful Indian Tribe in American History, S. C. Gwynne

Devils River: Treacherous Twin to the Pecos, 1535-1900, Patrick Dearen

Plants of Deep South Texas: A Field Guide to the Woody and Flowering Species, Alfred Richardson and Ken King

The American Military Frontiers: The United States Army in the West, 1783-1900, Robert Wooster

Spanish Texas, 1519-1821, Donald E. Chipman and Harriet Denise Joseph

Red Calico Traded for Young Girl, Marsha Tansley Jones

Get Along, Little Dogies: The Chisholm Trail Diary of Hallie Lou Wells, South Texas 1876, Lisa Waller Rogers

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Editors’ Choice: Myth, Memory, and Massacre: The Pease River Capture of Cynthia Ann Parker

Paul H. Carlson and Tom Crum

Sul Ross and the Second Capture of Cynthia Parker
Review by Lloyd Daigrepont

Even before the supposed rescue of Cynthia Ann Parker in 1860, her name and story were well-remembered lessons in Texas frontier history. Fair-haired and blue-eyed, Cynthia Ann was only nine years old in 1836 when the Parker family settled near the headwaters of the Navasota River was attacked by more than two hundred plains Indians, mostly Kiowa and Comanche. She survived the massacre but was among five captives (two adult women and three children) taken from Fort Parker. Of these, only Cynthia Ann seemed to become subsumed into the culture of her captors. Over the years the release and return of the other captives were negotiated, and Cynthia herself was seen on several occasions by traders, Indian agents, and even her brother John Parker. What Anglo-Texans was not prepared to accept was that a fair-haired daughter of Primitive Baptists had become thoroughly acculturated in Comanche ways, speaking little English, calling herself Naudah, married to a warrior, and bearing three children (one of whom would grow up to become the last great Comanche chief). Her return to civilization, moreover, was to her a source of personal loss and deep unhappiness; she had been separated from her husband and his sons, and until her death in 1870 she tried repeatedly to escape or negotiate a return to her Comanche family.

One can easily imagine the affront to Anglo-Christian sentiment and Anglo-Texan pride had Naudah’s desire to return to Native American culture been honored. The Battle of Pease River, as the event surrounding her rescue became known in the historical annals of Texans over the next three decades, was increasingly looked upon as a significant step in the advance of civilization; moreover, it rose to consideration often as part of the political stock-in-trade of one of Texas’s most successful statesmen. Lawrence Sullivan (“Sul”) Ross, who after the Civil War would rise from sheriff to state senator to governor and then president of Texas A & M College, became the acclaimed hero, his career both promoted by and promoting the significance of the Pease River incident. According to “official” accounts as recorded by James T. DeShields and others (including Ross himself) the young Texas Ranger captain led a contingency of Rangers and United States cavalry against an encampment of Comanche hunters. As the mounted Rangers flooded the camp and the cavalry troopers intercepted those attempting to escape, Ross and Lieutenant Tom Killheir pursued two figures escaping on horseback. After some distance, as the legend goes, one slowed and turned, revealing herself to be a female with an infant at her breast and crying “Americanos” in surrender. Leaving the woman with Killheir, Ross pursued, wounded, and engaged the other figure, who dismounted and fought until he was killed. This figure was alleged to have been Peta Nocona, a great chief of the Comanches, the husband of Nauda (the captured woman) and father of Quanah.

In Myth, Memory, and Massacre: The Pease River Capture of Cynthia Ann Parker, Paul H. Carlson and Tom Crum provide a long-awaited corrective to the Pease River legend. Not only is the volume thoroughly researched, but, as well, Carlson and Crum provide deft collation of the various “eyewitness” reports and historical accounts made from the days immediately following the incident until decades later when Quanah Parker and Sul Ross were both emerging legendary figures.

(Continued on page three)
What is most interesting is that the earliest reports made by Ross himself (and recorded in newspapers such as The Dallas Herald and in a speech made by Governor Sam Houston) suggest little claim to distinction on the part of Ross. He appears to have given no pursuit to anyone while others are credited with the capture of Cynthia Parker and the killing of a Comanche chief Bran. Further research on the part of the authors reveals, moreover, that no Comanche hunters were present, that only women and children and a few elderly men (about fifteen people in all) were in the process of breaking camp when Ross ordered the attack, and that what ensued was no battle but a massacre. The "chief Bran" slain was called Mohee, and this Mohee, near as well have been a Mexican slave—neither a Comanche nor a chief—Peta Nocona was not present. In truth, the Pease River incident was hardly significant or even interesting militarily or politically—except for the presence of Cynthia Parker. This fact and the emerging reputation of Quanah led to self-serving, vainglorious, and fraudulent accounts in the 1870s and 1880s by Ross, by other witnesses (some actual, some "supposed"); and by the well-known cattleman and former Ranger Charles Goodnight. Historians such as DeShields accepted their accounts willingly and rather uncritically. "For various reasons the event in the collective memory of Texans became an Indian fight, one that through the years loomed larger and larger. In its retelling it eventually became an engagement in which Comanche military power was broken. In reality, it was little more than a massacre of women and children, most of whom were running away" (xiii).

Carson and Crum have produced a thoroughly researched and provocative study. As earlier indicated, all available accounts are carefully weighed—given their due—as the authors patiently sift through inconsistencies as well as the circumstances affecting the perspectives of their sources. Myth, Memory, and Massacre is thus an excellent example of modern historiography and validity in writing revisionist history. It is a volume for all libraries and one that most readers will find engaging.

A Dim Sum of the Day Before

Steven Schroeder

Evident Asian Influence

Review by Jerry Bradley

Texas poet Steven Schroeder alternates between teaching Asian classics at the University of Chicago and liberal studies at Shenzhen University in China. The Asian influence is certainly evident in this volume of peaceful observations. Divided into four sections, the volume emphasizes the natural world and man's tenuous relationship to it. Schroeder's verses acknowledge and accept those tensions and without extravagant declamations explore the enticing possibility of imminent change.

In the typical Schroeder poem, objects in the poem's foreground brim with what seems inaccessible mystery. Humility in the face of that experience occasions silence, and it is ultimately this silence—the implied but unspoken—that dismantles the experience and leaves the reader with a sense of satisfaction and repletion. Calmness and peaceful observation arise out of the initial tension that prompted the poem. As Schroeder asserts in "sing."

The stone falling would think itself free if it could think. If it could sing, it would sing a song of freedom, fall harmless at the feet of an army,

In "floating lives" he further observes: war

_is the luxury we cannot afford. Our lives depend on fragile performances of humanity fleeting as the floating mountains on which, always disappointed, we always stake them.

Schroeder's emphasis upon the natural world and his controlled line breaks serve to restrain the emotion of his poems. One is not meant to pause at the end of every line, but the breaks create a (Continued on page four)
enhanced the Nermernuhs' aptitude and efficiency as nomadic hunters and raiders. Instinctively skilled as tamers, breeders, and trainers of horses, Comanches learned to hunt buffalo and to fight their enemies with speed as well as incredible skill. Except for the Kiowa, the Comanches were the only native Americans to fight on horseback; they understood better than Europeans the value of the horse in combat—stampeding, stealing, or slaughtering the mounts of their enemies before leaving them to perish in the desert; their striking range was such that Spanish dragoons in San Antonio were subject to attack from Comanches as far away as present-day Oklahoma City. The Comanches became so powerful and numerous that other Native American tribes served them as vassals, and their ruthlessness and hostility meant that only Comancheros (specially acknowledged Mexican traders out of Santa Fe) could venture safely into the territory known as Comancheria.

In the middle chapters of Empire of the Summer Moon Gwynne's subject becomes the barbaric measures adopted by representatives of the emerging American nation in subduing the Comanches, the most obdurate challenge to notions of Manifest Destiny. To put it quite simply, from the late 1830s until the surrender of Chief Quanah Parker in 1875 The Republic of Texas and the expanding United States fought the Comanches by emulating their fierceness and cruelty. Though a man of letters and an advocate of education, Texas President Mirabeau Lamar, committed to building an "empire of the West" (75), set the tone for the next decades by bluntly and openly advocating expulsion or extinction of all native peoples. Anglo settlers in Texas were typified by the family of Cynthia Parker, the white girl who would become the mother of Quanah: "simple farmers imbued with a fierce Calvinist work ethic, stoic optimism, and a cold-eyed aggressiveness . . . They hated Indians with a particular passion, considering them something less than fully human, and thus blessed with inalienable rights to absolutely nothing" (20). The frontier also attracted rootless and adventurous young men who embraced the freedom of the open plains and had little compunction about killing Indians. Under dashing and tireless leaders such as John Coffee Hays, specially commissioned groups known as "Texas Rangers" emulated Comanche tactics and, armed with the newly invented Colt revolvers, surpassed the foe in combining speed with firepower. Following the Civil War, Colonel Ronald Slidell Mackenzie pursued Comanches with the relentless obstinacy of William Tecumseh Sherman, using his own increasing knowledge of cattle trails and water holes in the Llano Estacado to drive Comanches out of hiding, ruthlessly destroying their horses, food sources, and shelters. The killing blow in this war of attrition was wielded by buffalo hunters and hide men, who virtually annihilated the Comanches' chief means of sustenance.

It appears more than fitting that the savagery on both sides should have been brought to an end by a man of white and Comanche heritage. The son of a warrior by a white woman (Continued on page five)
(Continued from page four) who had when a girl been kidnapped and fully integrated into the Comanche way of life, Quanah Parker exhibited bravery and cruelty in combat and on the Llano Estacado confounded Mackenzie through surprise, daring, and evasion. But he also possessed a practical insight into the diminished circumstances of his people, realizing that surrender and assimilation would provide the only real chance for the survival of the Comanches. Tall and muscular, elegant and dignified, he bargained shrewdly with government agents and land investors, moved his own people toward education and independence, and practiced a masterful diplomacy. His greatest trait as the last great Comanche Chief was, in a sense, his most American—a "peculiarly sunny view of the future" (293).

The one flaw of Empire of the Summer Moon is, paradoxically, one of the chief sources of satisfaction for readers. The lengthy subtitle, Quanah Parker and the Rise and Fall of the Comanches, The Most Powerful Indian Tribe in American History, is clearly misleading, for Quanah's story is merely the final phase of a general history of Comanche interaction with other cultures, native as well as European. How unfortunate it would have been for the reader had overly scrupulous editing winnowed Gwynne's enthusiasm for fascinating tangents such as the story of young Samuel Colt's struggle to market his newly invented revolver and the modifications made through the direct involvement of Texas Ranger Samuel Walker. And Gwynne need not have ventured into imaginative speculation concerning Cynthia Parker's abiding unhappiness in her forced return to white society after being "rescued" by Sul Ross. Among her husband's people, Gwynne writes, she had existed in "a world of ceaseless toil, hunger, constant war, and early death. But also of pure magic, of beaver ceremonies and eagle dances, of spirits that inhabited springs, trees, rocks, turtles, and crows; a place where people danced all night and sang bear medicine songs, where wolf medicine made a person invulnerable to bullets, dream visions dictated tribal policy, and ghosts were alive in the wind" (181). Readers of Empire of the Summer Moon will appreciate the fullness of its telling, will eagerly become absorbed in S. C. Gwynne's generous inclusion of interesting detail and his stimulating and at times lyrical descriptions.

Devils River: Treacherous Twin to the Pecos, 1535-1900
Patrick Dearen

A History of Devils River in Southwest Texas Review by Emma B. Hawkins

Only ninety-four miles in length and located in Southwest Texas, the river subject of this study was first known by the Spaniards as the San Pedro or the Saint Peter River. The name Devil's River, or Devils River, first appeared in print in 1848. While the region around the Devils River, which runs parallel to the Pecos River, had been inhabited by Indians for "millennia" (15), in the sixteenth century the first Europeans, the Spaniards, began to explore the country. From 1535-1821, Spanish adventurers and military men attempted to establish Spanish (Continued on page six)
settlements and conduct missionary work. The author traces in chronological order the development of Devils River territory through a 356-year history of drought, flash-floods, and rattlesnakes. This inhospitable, deadly frontier saw constant Indian hostilities and depredations; the construction of army posts/ camps, mail-coach routes and relay stations, and cattle and sheep ranches; a U.S. army mail caravan that depended on camels primarily, not mules (62-3); the arrival of the Southern Pacific Railroad; a plague of outlaws, bandits, cattle rustles, and train robbers; and attacks out of Mexico. The book is an enjoyable historical read, and the sole disappointment lies in the pictures—they are all black and white. Some of the nature/geographical scenes would have been very attractive in color, especially those on pages 26, 31, and 118.

Recommended for public and private libraries.

Plants of Deep South Texas: A Field Guide to the Woody and Flowering Species
Alfred Richardson and Ken King

Touted as the “definitive plant identification guide for the Lower Rio Grande Valley” (inside front flap), this field guide highlights over one thousand (1,058) species and varieties of plants that grow in the four counties on the southern tip of Texas toward the Gulf of Mexico: Cameron, Hidalgo, Willacy, and Starr. Since grasses have been studied in other guides, they are excluded in this study; however, trees are included. As I grew cacti in flower pots for years, I especially enjoyed the section covering cacti, and I also appreciated the appendix of butterflies and moths that are attracted to the various plants. The authors arranged the plants into five categories, from the more simple-appearing to the more complex-appearing, and then within each category they followed alphabetical order by families and their genera. Not only are the photographs clear, but some of the common names are themselves entertaining as well as informative—Sneezeweed and Texas Sticky Snakeeed, Straggler Daisy, Mexican Devil’s Claw, Roosevelt Depression Weed, Consumption Weed, False Dandelion (as if any county needed a false one), Scorpion’s Tail, Oreja de Ratán (rat’s ear), Devil’s Backbone, Baby Bonnets, Butterfly Pea, Potato Tree, Frog Fruit, and Rabbit Tobacco—to name a few. The heavy quality of the “leaves” of this book make it a pleasure to handle.


The American Military Frontiers: The United States Army in the West, 1783-1900
Robert Wooster

A History of the United States Army in the West
Review by Emma B. Hawkins

As part of Histories of the American Frontier series, the author hopes to shape the readers’ “understanding of the role ensuring the security of the young, fledgling country, especially from foreign and/or hostile Indian attacks, but also of encouraging the western development of the new nation. Beginning in 1784 when the American Congress formed the First American Regiment consisting of seven hundred men who served a one-year national military service, through 1790 when the newly ratified constitution established a standing army as a “permanent feature” and 1802 with the creation of a military academy at West Point, onward to 1891 when the army’s official roster had grown to include 24,234 officers and men, and ending coverage in approximately 1900, Wooster traces the troubled but continuous development of the U.S. Army and (Continued on page seven)

Carmen Tafoll’s poems and stories have appeared in more than two hundred poetry anthologies. This is her third book with Tricycle Press. She lives in San Antonio.
its efforts at nation building and national protection. While
not overlooking the War with Mexico, the Mormon War, and
the Civil War, the history focuses heavily upon the many
Indian Wars. The "regulars" fought in over "eleven hundred
combat operations against Indians" (273). The book is well
researched as indicated by thirty-four pages of
bibliographical sources that include manuscripts of collected
papers, archival and congressional records and annual
reports, newspaper accounts, books, articles and essays,
dissertations, and internet resources.

Fiesta Babies
Carmen Tafolla

Rhyming Fiesta
Review by Andrea Karlin

Carmen Tafolla's delightful, yet simple rhyming story Fiesta
Babias, illustrated by Amy Cordova with colorful, fiesta
inspired, action packed pictures, will entertain young children
as they follow the story of the fiesta babies who are totally
engaged during the fiesta or party.

On the last page of the book, Tafolla includes a glossary that
defines several Spanish terms included in the story, such as
mariachi song, abrazo, or beso, with which some readers
may be unfamiliar.

Spanish Texas, 1519-1821
Donald E. Chipman,
Harriet Denise Joseph

Texas Before It Came into the Union
Review by Yves Laberge, Ph.D.

An essential portion in the history of the Union; this book
tells the fascinating story of Texas during the three centuries
before it became a part of the USA in 1845. This impressive
book even covers the "prehistoric" era that ended with the
European discoveries of Texas. The authors provide various
elements about the shock of cultures and customs when the
Spanish experienced the various ways of living of the
Aboriginals, for instance how some First Nations tribes in
Texas used to consider cannibalism in 16th century;
"Karankawas commonly regarded cannibalism as a gesture
of revenge against their enemies, not as a source of
food" (16). Many references are made to the French
episodes and to the presence of explorers from New France
before it became Canada.

Texas was a colony of Spain until 1821, when it became a
part of newly born Mexico; however, this book does not
cover the following periods of Mexican Texas (1821-1836)
and the short-lived Republic of Texas (1836-1845).
Ultimately, Chapter 12 synthesizes "the legacies of Spanish
Texas," which are "both significant and enduring" for
instance in terms of names of places and for the significant
presence of Catholicism (256).

This revised edition includes new segments and
acknowledges many recent sources and books not included
in the 1992 version. This Spanish Texas, 1519-1821 is
essential for students in American Studies and history
because it explains how the Texas soil and people were like
when Texas was a part of Spain.

Donald E. Chipman is Professor Emeritus of History at the
University of North Texas. In 2003 King Juan Carlos I of
Spain appointed him as a Knight of the Royal Order of
Isabel the Catholic, the highest honor that can be accorded a
non-Spaniard.

TAFOLLA, CARMEN. FIESTA BABIES. BERKELEY, TRICYCLE

CHIPMAN, DONALD E., AND HARRIET DENISE JOSEPH.
SPANISH TEXAS, 1519-1821. AUSTIN: UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
PRESS, 2010. 366 PP. BIBLIOGRAPHY. ILLUSTRATIONS,
MAPS. PHOTOS. $24.95 PAPER. ISBN 13: 978-0-292-
Review of Texas Books

Red Calico Traded for Young Girl  
Martha Tannery Jones

Finding the Good in Tragedy  
Review by JoAn W. Martin

Tishapa's Choctaw mother encourages the children to cherish being young. The time is 1831 in a remote Indian village in Mississippi. The Choctaw tribe farms, hunts, plays games and enjoys life. Tishapa tries to darken her skin so she will look more like the Indians. She feels like an outsider but learns to kill squirrels with a blow gun and other skills her Indian playmate friends have developed. Tishapa attributes power to Sun (Sun opened his eye) and to Rain, if as each is a person.

When her Indian brother is injured, Dr. Goodridge comes to the village to treat him. He studies Tishapa so intently that she begins to feel uncomfortable. She wonders, "Where do I belong?" When he looks at her, she lowers her eyes and looks at the ground.

One day the doctor comes to the village carrying a bundle of red cloth. He wants to take Tishapa home to live with him and his wife. They have no children and for years have stored up love to lavish on her. She is hurt that her Indian family would trade her for the red calico, but her father explains, "You are not of our blood. You are of the white doctor's tribe." He has taught her to look for good in tragedy. The doctor and his wife name her Nanye.

Her sad situation improves when she meets William at the church's dinner-on-the-ground celebration. She finds out that her father and mother died of yellow fever, leaving her alone. The Indians found her and raised her.

This story is based on the author's great-great grandmother who lived with the Indians for thirteen years. Jones adds a bibliography for further reading and a list of Choctaw names and words.

Get Along, Little Dogies: The Chisholm Trail Diary of Hallie Lou Wells, South Texas 1878  
Lisa Waller Rogers

Girls on a Cattle Drive!  
Review by Frances M. Ramsey

Teenager Hallie Lou thinks it is unfair that boys get to do all the fun stuff like round up and trailing cattle to buyers in Dodge. She is surprised when her father decides to stay home with her mother who is expecting a baby soon. Her older brother will take her father's place in dealing with the buyers, and Hallie Lou, with her maid/best friend Davelo Mae, will go on the trail to represent the family.

The "fun" includes heat, dust, and violent storms, wild fire, and health hazards. There is always the need for good grass and water for the animals plus threats from Indians and outlaws. A satisfactory romance adds spice.

The characters, helpfully listed at the beginning of the book, are fictitious, but the actions are based on historical events which are recorded at the end of the story. This addendum includes a history of the Chisholm Trail and an essay on women on the cattle trails illustrated with black and white photographs.

This Book One in the Lone Star Journals is a Lamplighter Award Nominee and highly recommended for young readers.

Donald E. Chipman is Professor Emeritus of History at the University of North Texas. In 2003 King Juan Carlos I of Spain appointed him as a Knight of the Royal Order of Isabel the Catholic, the highest honor that can be accorded a non-Spaniard.

Harriet Denise Joseph is Professor of History at the University of Texas at Brownsville. Both she and Chipman have spent decades researching, writing, and teaching Texas history.

Martha Tannery Jones was born in Nacogdoches, Texas, on property once owned by Sam Houston. She is now retired after teaching for twenty-eight years in the schools of Conroe, Texas. Mrs. Jones and her husband have four daughters and live in Conroe.
Cursing Columbus
Eve Tal

Which Customs Should Immigrants Leave Behind?
Review by Frances M. Ramsey

In this sequel to Double Crossing, Eve Tal provides a window into the lives of a Ukrainian Jewish family in New York City in 1908. Teenager Raizel had come ahead with her father to work and make a place for the family. She expects everything to be wonderful when the family is reunited. She and her father have adapted to American ways and have a high regard for education, even for girls. The rest of the family is not ready to assimilate.

Her mother cannot accept the value of education and expects Raizel to stay home, help with younger children, be the English translator and errand runner. Thirteen year old Lemell hates school because he is ridiculed when he cannot read. They eke out a living. The rabbi hired to prepare Lemell for bar mitzva berates him as lazy, and the boy runs away to avoid disgracing his parents. Trying to make it on the street by selling papers does not pay enough to eat and find a safe place to sleep. Joining the gangs of boys who live on the streets, he picks pockets and commits petty theft.

The story alternates between the voices of Raizel seeking enough schooling to become a teacher and Lemell hoping to work with construction or horses. An Afterword explains the relationship between this novel and the experience of the author's family. There is a brief list of books about Jewish life in the Lower East Side a century ago. A glossary explains the Yiddish terms. This young adult novel will be a timely help in understanding current issues of immigration. Even older readers of historical fiction will find this a rewarding experience.

Born in the U.S., Eve Tal lives on Kibbutz Hatzor in Israel. Her first children's book was published soon after the birth of her third son—it was followed by three more. Double Crossing, her first book in English, is based on her grandfather's immigration story. Eve loves to travel and meet people from all over the world. "Children's books create a common language through which we can learn to understand one another. Our world is filled with too much hate. Love and trust require hard work. I believe we can build them with the help of books and stories."

Lyndon B. Johnson and Modern America
Kevin J. Fernlund

From the Texas Classroom to the White House:
A Biography of Lyndon B. Johnson
Review by Cristina Rios

While still a college student, Lyndon B. Johnson was hired as teacher and administrator of a segregated school for Hispanic children in Cotulla, a small town south of San Antonio, Texas. This first-hand experience in a Jim Crow school was formative for the then twenty-year-old Johnson. Even though Johnson left the teaching profession for a political career; his short tenure as an educator gave him an outlook of social and educational problems that he would address as President. A photograph of Lyndon B. Johnson with his fifth, sixth, and seventh grade students is included in the book.

This compressed biography of President Johnson presents an overview of his accomplishments in a clear and synthesized layout. Well selected photographs add to the narrative, depicting the life story of President Johnson; in the context of local, national and international conditions; from his birth in the Hill Country of Texas, to his final years after his presidency. This is a book of interest for many Texans; in particular for those concerned with History, Education, and Political Science.

Recommended for school and university libraries; an excellent resource for Social Studies and History teachers.

José Antonio Navarro: In Search of the American Dream in Nineteenth-Century Texas
David McDonald

Mexican Tejanos in Texas History: The Legacy of José Antonio Navarro
Review by Cristina Rios

This is one of the most interesting books on Texas history I have read; presenting the biography of a Mexican Tejano leader who lived in a crucial historical period for Texas, from 1795 through 1871. The author skillfully uses the struggles of this period in Texas history as a framework to portray the extraordinary accomplishments of José Antonio Navarro, a prominent Mexican Tejano figure of his time. Navarro was born in San Antonio, in 1795, when Texas was still part of colonial Mexico, New Spain; and under control of the Spanish crown. Navarro lived through the independence of Mexico from Spain, and the separation of Texas from Mexico. He was one of the signers of the Texas Declaration of Independence. After Texas became a Republic, Navarro was elected to the House of Representatives; and later to the senate of the state of Texas. He contributed to the drafting of the Texas Constitution. Navarro’s participation in the Texas Constitutional Conventions of 1836 and 1845 was crucial for the preservation of the rights of the Mexican Tejanos. This biography intends to dispel erroneous views about the life and actions of José Antonio Navarro. The research that supports this work is outstanding and reflects the many years the author spent finding and bringing to light historical documents that disclose the important role that José Antonio Navarro and other Mexican Tejanos had in Texas history.

Every Social Studies and History teacher should read this book. Highly recommended for university and community libraries.

Edmund J. Davis of Texas: Civil War General, Republican Leader, Reconstruction Governor
Carl H. Moneyhon

Has E. J. Davis Really Deserved The Bum Rap Given Him All These Years?
Review by Jon P. Tritsch

"Sealawag" was a derisive term typically given to white Southerners who were Republicans and supporters of federal Reconstruction policies in the former states of the Confederacy. Such individuals were universally despised by many in the South not only during the years of Reconstruction, but for decades following, even into the twentieth century. In Texas, that term became synonymous with the state's first Republican governor, Edmund Jackson Davis. Until now, there have been no extensive biographies about him other than an unpublished doctoral dissertation in 1976 Edmund J. Davis: Radical Republican and Reconstruction Governor of Texas by graduate student Ronald N. Gny. At last, Carl H. Moneyhon, a professor of history at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, has contributed this needed biography on one of Texas' most controversial political figures.

In his early adult years, E. J. Davis was a practicing lawyer in South Texas and was known for his penchant for law and order. Because of the frequent Indian raids and uprisings like the Cortina War of 1859 that occurred along the border, Davis always felt that the federal government was better suited to keep law and order along the state's southern border. The state government was too weak to accomplish this. Beliefs like this led Davis to become a Unionist and opposed to the secessionist movement in Texas. Because he refused to swear the oath of allegiance to the Confederacy, Davis, like so many others, had to flee the state. He was commissioned an officer in the Union Army and was involved in recruitments of fellow Texas refugees for service in federal campaigns in Louisiana and Texas. The persecution that Unionist families, like his, endured from the secessionists plus the atrocities he witnessed during the war undoubtedly transformed Davis into a strong opponent of secessionists regaining power in Texas after the war. By aligning with the Republicans and supporting the Reconstruction policies of Congress, Davis hoped to reconstruct Texas away from the entrenched Democrat secessionists and bring law and order and progressive changes to the Lone Star state. During his one term as governor, Davis supported policies that may be called liberal or progressive today. They included civil rights and protection for the newly freed blacks and a state system of public schools for the benefit of all. In the area of law and

(Continued on page eleven)
(Continued from page ten)

order, Davis favored a state militia that would protect the frontier and a police force that would keep the peace, put down mob violence and safeguard the rights of the enfranchised blacks. Unfortunately, the constant stream of hostility aimed at Davis, Republicans and their support of Reconstruction and black enfranchisement resulted in a return to power in state government by the Democrats. After reading this book, one will wonder if Davis really was the oppressor and evil Republican as has been generally thought, or was his reputation colored by the political diatribes against him from his Democratic secessionist opponents?

This book, the second of TCU’s Texas biography series, should be a definite addition by academic and public libraries for their Texas and Civil War history collections. It fills a much-needed gap of biographical information about a maligned Texas figure that, perhaps, was not the villain as he has historically been portrayed.

Searching for Rama’s Spear
Jerry Craven

Big Thicket Sleuth
Review by Janet K. Turk

Brooke Singh heads to Aunt Tiana’s house in the Big Thicket for a visit only to be confronted by a mystery upon her arrival. Her prized heirloom is missing from her jewelry box. Her aunt gave her the stone called Rama’s spear on Brooke’s sixteenth birthday, but the young sleuth just left the stone in her flimsy jewelry box on the dresser located the room she uses at her aunt’s house. Upon arriving at Aunt Tiana’s house, Brooke realizes that the door on the deck has been forced open, her room has been searched, and the linen closet has been rifled through. As soon as Brooke thinks to call the police, she remembers that the police do not patrol so far out in the country.

Now Brooke must join forces with her best friend, Samantha, her new friend, Kyle Monet (“Kilo Meter”), and the “talking cat” named Dao to attempt to solve the mystery of the missing stone while encountering gypsies, drug runners, and a host of other characters and creatures.

Young adult readers and advanced adolescent readers will thoroughly enjoy following the adventures and misadventures of these characters while also learning about the Big Thicket.

Carl H. Moneyhon is professor of history at the University of Arkansas, Little Rock. A specialist on the Civil War and Reconstruction, much of his work focuses on the Texas experience. He’s published Republicanism in Reconstruction Texas; Texas After the Civil War: The Struggle of Reconstruction; and Portraits of Conflict: A Photographic History of the Civil War in Texas. Moneyhon is a Fellow of the Texas State Historical Association; holds degrees from the University of Texas, Austin, and a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago.

Brother: A Novel of Suspense
James Fredericks

Brotherly Thriller
Review by Janet K. Turk

Chase Riodan, a successful defense attorney, is on his way to the top; he has won several big cases, and accolades flow his way. Unfortunately, his career successes come to an abrupt halt when he finds himself the main suspect in his fourth murder defense case. Chase is forced to place his fate in the hands of his friends and estranged twin brother, Jared. Jared is a Special Forces soldier who spent months in a mysterious army facility deep in the mountains of North Carolina. The plot thickens with one twist and turn after another. Can Chase rely on his brother, and can the brothers agree about how far they are willing to go to attain justice and clear their names?

The plot is tightly woven with numerous subplots and intrigues that the brothers must navigate in order to steer of the potentially corrupt justice system. After all, they have no idea who is setting up Chase for murder or why. The brothers are forced to face their evils and their pasts in order to overcome an unfortunate turn of events. The novel explores the power of a brotherly bond and the importance of truth and openness amid a sea of deception.

Lovers of suspenseful mysteries will not be able to put down this gripping novel.

FRANKLIN, JESSIE. "Ohio’s Godmother." THE MESS, 1951, vol. 6, no. 3, p. 16.


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