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Book Reviews

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Book Reviews

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THE MEN OF CAJAMARCA: A SOCIAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL STUDY OF THE FIRST CONQUERORS OF PERU. By James Lockhart. Austin and London: The University of Texas Press, 1972. Pp. xviii, 496. Map, index. \$10.00.

FRANCISCO PIZARRO and his small band who made the Inca Atahualpa captive at Cajamarca in 1532 were not only first conquerors of Peru, but were also a vital element in shaping the Spanish society that emerged in the new land. It is with relation to this latter rôle that Professor Lockhart treats of the men of Cajamarca, both as individuals and as a group, in this intensive study through which he continues his deep inquiry into the origins and early evolution of Spanish society in Peru. In this work he has provided a valuable companion to his *Spanish Peru, 1532-1560*, published in 1968.

Deriving from exhaustive research in Peruvian and Spanish archives, the volume is divided into two complementary and mutually supporting parts. The first is devoted to detailed analysis of group characteristics and patterns, and the second to brief biographies of the men of Cajamarca, from highest to lowest rank. As Professor Lockhart points out, the volume thus embraces two traditional approaches to the study of early Spanish immigration to the New World, one the study of groups and group characteristics, and the other studies on outstanding figures or of men who participated in important events.

Professor Lockhart's carefully considered findings on these men of Cajamarca as individuals and as a group are significant and enlightening. His findings would also seem to apply basically to the other groups of conquerors of Peru and adjacent regions.

Showing great diversity in social and regional origins, occupations, status, and walks of life, from hidalgos to obscure plebeians, the men of Cajamarca were, on balance, responsible, purposeful, capable, and determined, not mere adventurers. The core was composed principally of worthy commoners led by a substantial minority of hidalgos of modest rank. A common driving motivation was attainment of a seigneurial type of life for themselves and establishment and perpetuation of a position of honor and wealth for their families. They did not move from one place to another out of sheer restlessness, but tended to settle in one place once they had achieved a satisfactory personal position. Conquerors turned colonists acted responsibly, in the main, to protect what they had gained and pass it on to their families. As citizens of the municipalities in which they resided they participated fully in civic activities, many holding places of honor and authority.

No essential element of Spanish culture was lost in the society in which they played such an important rôle in founding in Peru, and into this society was fused a pattern of peculiarly New World attitudes, customs, and values, along with an accompanying sense of identification with the Indies.

Always keeping in mind the special circumstances represented by the great wealth and heavy native population of Peru, Professor Lockhart avoids projecting the implications of his detailed findings too deeply into other regions of the Spanish New World. He validly considers, however, that the men of Cajamarca represent a good random sampling of Spanish immigration to the New World of their time and that they were closely akin to the conqueror-settlers of other areas. All operated within the framework of established Indies tradition.

Readers will find Professor Lockhart's discussions and critiques of sources and secondary works germane to his subject of interest and value. They will also find of interest his observations concerning the acculturation approach toward explaining the evolution of a society such as that which the Spaniards implanted in Peru.

As in his *Spanish Peru*, in this study of the men of Cajamarca Professor Lockhart not only provides a thorough and reasoned analysis and exposition of the patterns and characteristics of early Spanish society in Peru, but points the way for comparable studies in depth for other regions of the Spanish New World.

Alexandria, Virginia

ROBERT S. CHAMBERLAIN

THE LIFE AND ADVENTURES OF JAMES P. BECKWOURTH. AS TOLD TO THOMAS D. BONNER. Introduced and with notes and an epilogue by Delmont R. Oswald. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1972. Pp. xiv, 649. Illus., index. \$9.75.

THE AMERICAN FRONTIER was not only filled with "larger than life scenery" of an almost unbelievable variety, it also had many a "larger than life" human actor. Such a man is the subject of this newly edited version of Thomas Bonner's life of James P. Beckwourth.

From 1807 to 1866 the western landscape was enlivened by Jim Beckwourth. His parentage bridging the racial barriers between slave and free society, Beckwourth found his occupation in the thick lodgepole pine forests of the Rocky Mountains. His often controversial exploits, including his adoption into the Crow Indian tribe, made him a legend in his own lifetime. He seems to have been everywhere and to have seen everyone. Historians, no less than his contemporaries, have frequently

divided sharply not only on the truthfulness of his boasts in life, but even on his later defense by their own fellow researchers.

The fact that Beckwourth has been the subject of other biographies does raise the question as to whether or not students of the West really need this volume. To many I am sure that it may well seem to be a considerable waste to reprint an antique, "as told to" version of an already investigated subject. At the risk of seeming unduly pedantic, I would answer that we do indeed need this present form of this often discredited work.

The value of this new edition stems from the excellent job the editor has done in providing explanatory notes, and footnotes, to the original Bonner text. Oswald knows his subject and has followed the often obscure spoor of Beckwourth and Bonner into vales of new understanding about both men. His resourceful scholarship has demonstrated that a good portion of Beckwourth's testimony was accurate, though it also points up many of the more glaring falsifications.

Another value to this new edition is that it once more makes readily available to students of the American West a book which was important in manufacturing the literary views of the fur trade which appear in the later nineteenth century. Beckwourth's biography is one of the source books to which many writers of both fur trade history and fiction turned in their quest for a little ready-made blood and thunder.

The major defects of this volume are those shared by other recent reprints. A set of maps would have been of great assistance to those intent on following Beckwourth's adventures, and particularly when trying to fix the locations of places which no longer exist on modern maps. Even a simple map tracing Beckwourth's wanderings as delineated in the text would be helpful. The one map that is used, on page 599, to show the location of Beckwourth Pass is helpful; but both the publisher and editor should have cooperated to provide more geographical orientation.

One other place where the editor could have assisted the serious student of Beckwourth's singular life would be by the inclusion of a bibliography on Beckwourth. The Introduction which Oswald has provided is good, as is the footnoted Epilogue. One cannot believe that the editor did not pile up a large, and probably *the* most comprehensive, bibliography on his subject in the course of his investigations. Such material would be useful and could have been presented in essay form. The Introduction points out criticisms and some shifting currents of opinion on Beckwourth, but it is valuable only if you wish to follow the editor's reasoning. A full bibliography would at least place in the reader's hands the material for constructing, if he desired, his own conclusions on the subject.

The above objections aside, Oswald has done a most interesting job of editing and investigating and one which many of our younger scholars can use as a measure of their own efforts on such projects in the future.

Dwight D. Eisenhower Library

JOHN E. WICKMAN

THE ST. LOUIS-SAN FRANCISCO TRANSCONTINENTAL RAILROAD: THE THIRTY-FIFTH PARALLEL PROJECT, 1853-1890. By H. Craig Miner. Lawrence: The University Press of Kansas, 1972. Pp. xii, 236. Illus., maps, app., bibliog., index. \$8.50.

THE HISTORY of the transcontinental railroads has received much attention, but a detailed narrative of the effort to provide a route via the 35th parallel to the Pacific Coast has been neglected until now. This book remedies that neglect with a study of the individuals, groups, and corporations that sought to develop this route over a period of four decades. The story is filled with types familiar to students of nineteenth-century railroad development—local promoters, city and town boosters, optimistic speculators, cautious capitalists, fierce competitors, and agile lobbyists. Speculator-promoter John C. Frémont, investment banker Joseph Seligman, and railroad magnates Jay Gould and Collis Huntington are among those who play important roles.

The possibilities for building a railroad west from St. Louis engaged Missourians' attention in the early 1850's. The state had chartered the Pacific of Missouri in 1849, and its South-West Branch could presumably tap a 35th parallel route west. A federal survey of that route was made in 1853 and was followed by a flurry of state-aided construction in Missouri.

In 1866 a federal land grant to the newly organized Atlantic and Pacific Railroad, in which Frémont was a key figure, revived the dormant project. As projected, the route was to run from St. Louis through southwestern Missouri to Indian Territory (where Congress had promised the A & P lands that the Indians had not yet surrendered), thence to Albuquerque, Needles, Mojave, and on to the Pacific Coast. But it proved difficult to realize this vision.

After two years, Frémont had to give up, and in 1869 the project attracted the attention of Joseph Seligman. He developed a plan of winning San Franciscans' support, leasing the Pacific of Missouri, and using these accomplishments to win support from eastern capitalists. However, Seligman encountered numerous obstacles, aggravated by the Panic of 1873. In 1875 the Atlantic and Pacific was forced into receivership, emerging the follow-

ing year in a close relationship with the newly formed St. Louis and San Francisco. Some substantial progress was made until 1880, when Seligman died; then the road became subject to new problems and new forces stemming from competitive railroad strategies.

The Frisco offered sufficient promise, as well as competitive threat, to lead Jay Gould, now in control of the Pacific of Missouri (renamed Missouri Pacific), and Collis Huntington, intent on protecting the Southern Pacific, to gain seats on the Frisco board. However, the A & P and the Frisco allied themselves with the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe, which in 1887 used the A & P's Western Division between Albuquerque and Needles, to gain access to California. Three years later the Santa Fe formally took over the Western Division, ending beyond doubt any possibility for an independent trunkline route over the 35th parallel. The land subsidy that Congress had bestowed in 1866 proved to be of comparatively little value, and much of it was forfeited for failure to live up to the terms of the grant.

Much of this story is one of "boomer" psychology and unwarranted expectations clashing with hard reality. Pursuit of personal ends by money- or power-seeking individuals gives the story its life and goes far towards explaining its outcome. H. Craig Miner has documented the 35th parallel project's history from an impressive variety of sources. Because he has presented a complicated story in all its complexity, the presentation makes it difficult at times to untangle the individual strands. Nevertheless, Professor Miner has added importantly to our knowledge of the transcontinental railroad era and of the men who sought to turn it to their advantage.

University of Maine at Orono

ARTHUR M. JOHNSON

DOCUMENTS OF SOUTHWESTERN HISTORY: A GUIDE TO THE MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS OF THE ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY. Compiled by Charles C. Colley. Tucson: Arizona Historical Society, 1973. Pp. xxxii, 234. Illus., index. \$20.00.

HERE is a key which opens a rich storehouse of source materials for the understanding of the past not only of Arizona but the surrounding areas of our Southwest and of northern Mexico. The wealth of manuscripts and other historical documents held by the Arizona Historical Society (until recently the Arizona Pioneers' Historical Society) has long been known to historians, writers, and students of Western history. But until now it has been necessary to journey to Tucson to understand its scope and value.

By comparison with many other state historical societies Arizona's is a youngster as far as active collecting goes. However, through the zealous efforts of Mrs. George Kitt and its other recent directors its library has become a treasury of Arizona and Southwest source material. That material is now described in this guide to the great profit of all. Each of more than 800 collections is given a description, size, period covered, brief information about the collector when appropriate, description of the contents, and a note on availability of calendars and indexes. There is an interesting historical introduction which sketches the background of the society and its growth to its present maturity. Finally there is an extensive index to persons, places, and things; however it should be noted (as the introduction fails to do) that the extensive list of names of pioneers in the Carl Hayden biographical files, the names of persons who were interviewed for the oral history program, and the long list of mines given in the body of the guide are not repeated in the index.

Guides of this kind, of course, are out of date the day the manuscript is sent to the printer, and one hopes that regular supplements will be forthcoming, but for now scholars, writers and just plain Southwest buffs will be thankful for this Open Sesame that reveals a cave of gold.

University of Arizona Library

DONALD M. POWELL

SOLDIER IN THE WEST: LETTERS OF THEODORE TALBOT DURING HIS SERVICES IN CALIFORNIA, MEXICO, AND OREGON, 1845-53. Edited by Robert V. Hine and Savoie Lottinville. Norman: The University of Oklahoma Press, 1972. Pp. xxvi, 210. Illus., map, bibliog., index. \$7.95.

By the editors' own admission Theodore Talbot's "short life affected his times very little, if at all." Nevertheless, these letters to his mother and sister are interesting and at times informative. He was involved in many dramatic events of the middle nineteenth century, and he carefully recorded his impressions. Letters written during the years 1845-52 are included in this volume, and most of these deal with his military experience in the American west. There is a short, ten-page introduction, as well as separate comments preceding each of the five sections of the book.

The first two selections of letters pertain to the third expedition of John Charles Frémont. This is perhaps the most significant part of the book. On the march west Talbot was for a time in charge of the main body of the expedition, and he left a fairly complete description of the route taken. His accounts of hostilities in California are helpful, as they add to the knowledge of this aspect of the Mexican War.

Probably the least important sections of this study are those written during 1848 and early 1849. It was in this period that Talbot first sailed to Vera Cruz, and later to Oregon. His observations of Mexico, Brazil, Chile, and Hawaii are as interesting as those of many nineteenth-century travelers. Undoubtedly, the editors included these letters to help illustrate the young soldier's personality. However, they add little relevant to the role of the army in the West.

The last part of the book is the longest. It covers a period of two and one-half years during which Talbot served in Oregon. This represents a significant part of the study. Through his comments, it is possible to gain insights into the constructive role of the military in the peacetime development of the American West.

It is difficult to assess the value of a work such as this. Certainly, some of the letters are important and most are interesting. However, I do not believe that this alone justifies their publication in a book-length study. Many of the letters are actually peripheral to any central theme. Perhaps the more significant ones could have been incorporated into a study of a broader scope.

There is a continual parade of names throughout the book. For this reason, the editors have supplied useful biographical information, as well as an excellent twenty-page index. For its part, the University of Oklahoma Press has produced a handsome volume marred only by a serious printing error on page 82.

University of Albuquerque

GERALD THEISEN