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*MAURICE GARLAND FULTON: HISTORIAN  
OF NEW MEXICO AND THE SOUTHWEST*

WILLIAM E. GIBBS AND ALFRED L. CASTLE

ONE SUMMER EVENING the lights were on in the basement of Willson Hall at the New Mexico Military Institute. As was his custom, Maurice G. Fulton, the chairman of the English Department and local historian, was working late in an office he shared with a motley crew of cats who ate from open cans of sardines and tuna. Fulton heard noise in the hallway, and moments later, looking up, he found himself peering into the barrel of a forty-five. Facing him was Lil Casey Klasner, a peripheral participant in the Lincoln County conflict of the late nineteenth century, who demanded that Fulton turn over his edited version of her autobiography. Notoriously absent minded and never able to master the act of wearing a uniform properly, Fulton showed considerable presence of mind and quickly handed over the manuscript.<sup>1</sup> Little did Fulton know that a reputation for scholarship and a commitment to historical accuracy could be dangerous liabilities. But he survived this incident, surmounted other obstacles, and became a significant historical scholar of New Mexico and the Southwest who left his mark on regional historiography.

Throughout his early life, Fulton benefitted from a variety of educational experiences. Born in Oxford, Mississippi, on December 3, 1877, he was early exposed to a stimulating environment. His father, Robert B. Fulton, was a distinguished southern educator who served for many years as chancellor of the University of Mississippi. Placing a high premium on education, he sent his son to private school in Oxford, Mississippi. Because college education was considered mandatory in the Fulton family, Maurice entered the University of Mississippi in 1894. In the gentle surroundings of "Ole Miss," he studied literature and

rhetoric. Four years later he had completed requirements for the bachelor of arts degree and immediately entered graduate school. Receiving his master's degree from the University of Mississippi in 1901, Fulton moved to the University of Michigan to continue his graduate studies in English literature, composition, and rhetoric. Perhaps because of his often expressed odium for narrow specialization, he did not complete his Ph.D. degree. Yet he enjoyed teaching while taking his graduate work and decided to pursue a career as a college instructor.

From 1905 to 1908, Fulton served as an Assistant Professor of English at Centre College in Danville, Kentucky. Between 1909 and 1918, he taught at Davidson College in Davidson, North Carolina. At both colleges he instructed small classes in literature and rhetoric. In 1918, World War I interrupted his academic career. Serving for only six months and seeing no combat, he was honorably discharged in 1919. As his family and friends expected, Fulton reentered academia and accepted an appointment as Assistant Professor of English at Indiana University. Although successful in his teaching and writing, Fulton preferred the more intimate atmosphere of a small college. This preference and health problems caused him to leave Indiana in 1922 and move to New Mexico Military Institute in Roswell, New Mexico, where he was named Professor of English. As an incentive, Fulton was offered the chairmanship of the English Department and the rank of major, aide-de-camp, in the New Mexico National Guard.<sup>2</sup> With a small but growing enrollment of about three hundred students and a renewed commitment to academics, New Mexico Military Institute was to prove a happy environment for Fulton.

Fulton brought to his new teaching post not only a strong academic background and a long list of publications but also a keen interest in history.<sup>3</sup> His edition of *Roosevelt's Writings: Selections from the Writings of Theodore Roosevelt* appeared in 1920, and possibly his interest in the West was intensified when reading of Roosevelt's exploits. At any rate, after a short period in New Mexico, Fulton became captivated with the rich and varied past of his new homeland, and he soon immersed himself in studying its history.

Fulton's interest in southeastern New Mexico developed, he once said, after he read Pat Garrett's *Authentic Life of Billy the Kid*.<sup>4</sup> More specifically, Fulton became intrigued with the legends surrounding Billy the Kid—William Bonney—Billy Antrim and the disturbances in Lincoln County in the 1870s and 1880s in which the famous outlaw played a notable part. While Major Fulton was involved in several other significant scholarly activities, his primary interests would remain the Lincoln County War and Billy the Kid.<sup>5</sup>

By 1927, five years after he had arrived in New Mexico, Fulton's reputation as an authority on the legendary Kid had grown to such an extent that he was asked to edit the second edition of Pat Garrett's *Authentic Life of Billy the Kid*. The Major's efforts on Garrett's work reveal a great deal about him as an editor and historian. As would be his usual practice as editor, Fulton rejected textual changes that would destroy "the vernacular flavor of the original."<sup>6</sup> In his analysis of the book, Fulton constructed a counterpoint interpretation that sought to distinguish between the mythical picture painted by Garrett's collaborator, Ash Upson, and the historical reality of Bonney and the Lincoln County troubles.<sup>7</sup> To substantiate some of the points in Garrett's narrative, the Major incorporated such primary sources as the correspondence between Bonney and Territorial Governor Lew Wallace into the chapter notes of the book.<sup>8</sup>

Essentially, Fulton wished to accomplish two goals: first, to replace the romantic image of the Kid as legendary super-killer<sup>9</sup> with a more accurate account based upon fact; and, second, to elevate the historical status of the Lincoln County conflict, especially those parts that included the exploits of Billy the Kid. To correct the reputation of the Kid, Fulton noted that Bonney, whom he considered a product of frontier lawlessness, happened to have a zeal for vengeance and a flair for leadership. Fulton observed that the Kid, in reality, was not a murderer but a marauder.<sup>10</sup> So convinced was Fulton of this distinction that he once considered writing an article on the "inconspicuousness of Bill Bonney."<sup>11</sup> Next, Fulton attempted to correct the impression Garrett left that the Lincoln County War had grown out of the

Pecos War of 1876 and that it was simply a feud between the small ranchers and the large ones like John Chisum. Again, Fulton considered the disturbances of Lincoln County to be more than a simple outbreak of ruffian violence but a confrontation of frontier forces with economic and political ramifications. As for the role of Billy the Kid in the Lincoln County War, Fulton once wrote that a Lincoln County War would have occurred even without the Kid. If anything, Fulton continued, the Kid should be thanked for keeping historical interest alive in the Lincoln County War.<sup>12</sup>

Fulton's clarification of the Garrett-Upson text through his modest alterations and his use of additional detailed biographical and historical notes gained him recognition as an editor. As a result, a widow of Pat Garrett's deputy, John W. Poe, asked Fulton to edit her husband's account, *The Death of Billy the Kid*. Poe, who was with Garrett at the Pedro Maxwell house on the night of July 14, 1881, had remained in Roswell and had risen to a position of prominence as president of Citizen's National Bank. He had not made his story known, but, at the prodding of his wife, he finally did so. Before Poe's account could be readied for publication, however, he died, and little was done with the work until Mrs. Poe contacted Fulton.<sup>13</sup>

In his labor on this "measly gotten up"<sup>14</sup> manuscript, Fulton continued to demonstrate his editorial skills by providing much explanatory information about Poe in his role as Garrett's deputy and other details involving Billy the Kid. The Major discounted rumors that Bonney was having an affair with one of Lucien Maxwell's "adopted" daughters. In addition, Fulton included, in both Spanish and English, the coroner's report, establishing the fact that Pat Garrett had killed the Kid and was eligible to claim the bounty.<sup>15</sup> Fulton also continued his campaign to put the Kid in his proper historical place by characterizing Bonney as a "young scapegrace." To the question of whether the Kid was a "sneaks-by or a lad of mettle," Fulton responded that Billy had become a romantic hero whereas he was, in reality, but "a general nuisance, [if] not to say an appreciable menace."<sup>16</sup>

During these years Fulton found his reputation as an editor a liability. Word of his editorial expertise spread not only to Mrs. Poe but also to the irascible Lil Casey Klasner. Lil and her family,

the Caseys, had played a part in the Lincoln County disturbances, and she sought out Fulton and asked him to edit her semi-literate autobiography. Always keen to gain access to new historical materials, Fulton agreed. But, typical of his thoroughness, he was not satisfied to make grammatical and structural changes. Fulton traveled to Santa Fe and Carrizozo seeking supplementary information on the Casey family. There he discovered in the public records information that did not reflect positively on Lil or her family. Nonetheless, Fulton dutifully clarified Lil's account with this additional evidence. The cantankerous Lil, after reading a carbon copy of Fulton's editorial work, did not appreciate his efforts. Unlike William Bonney, she was alive and unwilling to accept the professor's reconstruction of her and her family's roles in the history of the region. Her discontent led to the confrontation with Fulton in the basement of Willson Hall.<sup>17</sup>

In the years following Fulton's "close encounter" with Lil Klasner, he entered into fruitful editorial collaboration with Paul Horgan, his former student and colleague at the Institute. During the period from 1934 to 1944, Fulton and Horgan edited and published two significant works: *New Mexico's Own Chronicle: Three Races in the Writings of Four Hundred Years* (1937) and the *Diary and Letters of Josiah Gregg*, Volume I (1941) and Volume II (1944).

Fulton began work on the *New Mexico Chronicle* in 1934 and shortly thereafter asked Horgan to join him. Horgan later recalled that in the division of labor, his role was essentially that of writing connective passages and captions. While he and Fulton conferred on editorial matters, Horgan noted, the "whole concept" of the book belonged to Fulton.<sup>18</sup> This concept allowed for organizing portions of letters, diaries, memoirs, manuscripts, historical writings, and documents in such a manner as to permit the peoples of New Mexico to recount their experiences. This organization was characteristic of Fulton's editorial approach and one that he would follow later in working with the papers of Josiah Gregg.

In the introduction of *New Mexico Chronicle*, Fulton maintained that common men and women were the "civilizers of the land" who "were serving truth in terms of their own experience." To allow these people to speak for themselves continued to be one

of Fulton's editorial devices. He justified this approach by recalling English historian Thomas Macaulay's statement that "the true historian must see ordinary men as they appear in their ordinary business and in their ordinary pleasure."<sup>19</sup> Fulton also contributed substantially to the book on New Mexico through his explicative notes on numerous passages. His footnotes were not merely references to other sources; they supplemented material in Horgan's introduction and added extensive biographical and historical data. Fulton and Horgan obviously worked well together, and, as one reviewer acknowledged, they had succeeded admirably in their effort "to reveal in a chronological pattern the essential features in the discovery and development of New Mexico."<sup>20</sup>

The two editors made an even more significant contribution in their work on the Gregg papers. While working on the *Chronicle*, Fulton became increasingly familiar with the life of one of the first traders to Santa Fe, Josiah Gregg. His research revealed that little work had been done on Gregg's life following the termination of his Santa Fe Trail experiences in 1840. Fulton tracked down a collection of unpublished Gregg materials in the possession of the explorer's grandnephew, Claude Hardwicke, and after Hardwicke's death, his widow authorized Fulton to function as agent in the publication of nine books of memoranda covering Gregg's travels from 1840 to 1850. Fulton initially gave some consideration to writing a biography but abandoned that project in favor of arranging the materials so that they added up to a partial biography of Gregg.<sup>21</sup> Again, Fulton asked Paul Horgan to co-edit this new project. Horgan later observed that Fulton was very generous in considering him a co-editor since his primary responsibility was writing the biographical essays that introduced the volumes.<sup>22</sup>

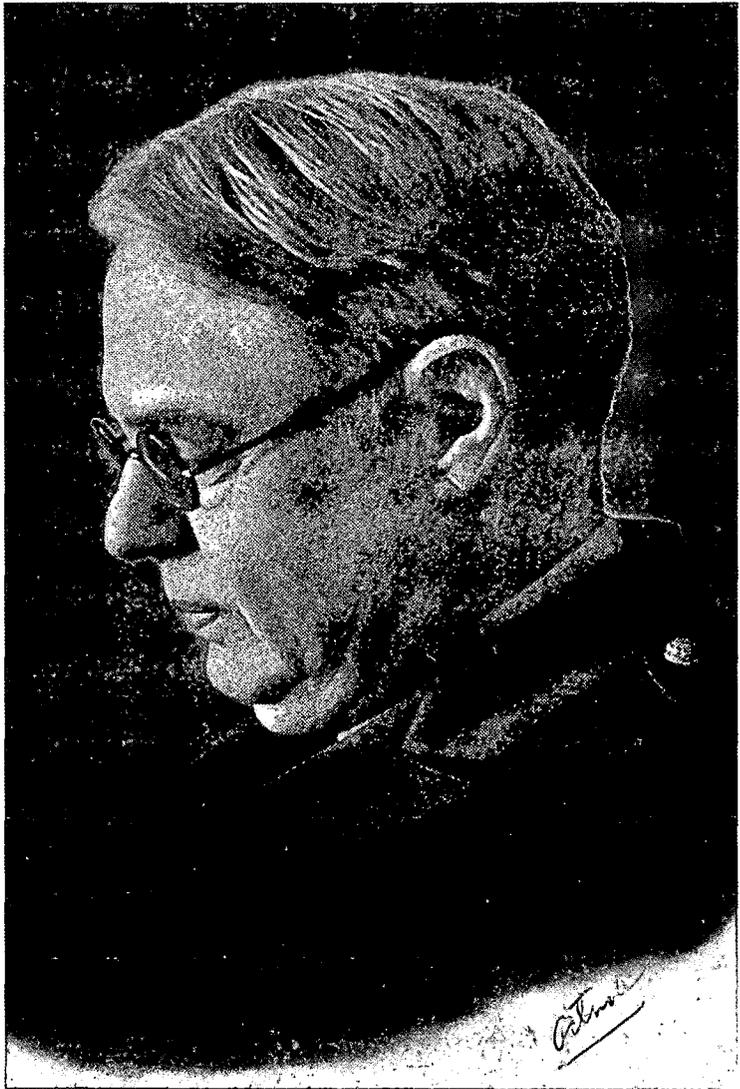
The first volume, *Diary and Letters of Josiah Gregg: Southwestern Enterprises*, covered the period of Gregg's retirement from the Santa Fe trade in 1840 until his departure in 1847 for the Mexican War. Fulton's editorial approach allowed Gregg, from his vantage point as correspondent, to reflect upon his travels and to formulate his perceptions of historical change. From this perspective, Fulton sought not only to give the reader a view of what Gregg saw but also to gain appreciation of Gregg's character and

“gift of observation.”<sup>23</sup> Fulton’s citation of Gregg’s reactions to the selection of Polk as president—“remarkable [in] that a man so short of intellect should have been placed in the executive chair”—illustrates his favorable conclusions about Gregg’s skill as an observer.<sup>24</sup>

The second volume, *Diary and Letters of Josiah Gregg: Excursions in Mexico and California*, contained fascinating observations on the Mexican War and the unexplored regions of California. Fulton continued to use Gregg’s role as correspondent to reconstruct an observer’s picture of the Mexican War, especially the Battle of Buena Vista and the rugged conditions of northern California. In addition, Fulton placed greater stress on biographical than on historical matters.<sup>25</sup> Fulton’s strength, again, rested with his willingness to carry out the arduous work of editing. He carefully avoided “encroaching upon Gregg’s own chronicle,” retaining, as always, the “color and flavor of the original” while making a few changes, particularly in spelling, to clarify the text.<sup>26</sup> His editorial notes included factual and explanatory materials gleaned from such contemporary sources as books, newspapers, and unpublished manuscripts. The explanatory notes were especially extensive and included translations of passages in Spanish, clarification of geographical references, development of genealogical charts, and enlargements of stories that Gregg introduced but did not complete.<sup>27</sup>

The response of reviewers to the two volumes on Gregg were generally positive. One reviewer stated that the first volume was “not only a necessity for every historical library”; it was also so absorbing “that it should be . . . of interest to the general reader, young or old.” The same reviewer later observed that Fulton had “performed an admirable task” in editing an important contribution to the history of the West.<sup>28</sup> A noted authority on Gregg, John Thomas Lee, remarked in a letter to Fulton that the *Diary and Letters of Josiah Gregg* was an appealing compilation of materials and a real historical “find.” Lee added that the work provided a clear picture of Gregg and as a result constituted the most important western book to appear in some time.<sup>29</sup>

After publication of the second volume of the Gregg papers, Fulton was free to devote more time to his major interest—the Lincoln



Marice Garland Fulton. M. G. Fulton Collection, Special Collections, University of Arizona Library, Tucson. Courtesy of Harwood Hinton, editor of *Arizona and the West*.

County War. Beginning his work on the topic in the twenties, he had painstakingly collected materials on the subject and on the Pecos Valley and the Southwest in general. In fact, Fulton dreamed not only of writing a history of the Lincoln County War but also of completing a history of the Pecos Valley and of establishing a historical journal treating the history of the Pecos Valley in New Mexico and Texas.<sup>30</sup>

During his thirty-three years in New Mexico, Colonel Fulton<sup>31</sup> had conducted considerable research into these areas of interest. As Paul Horgan noted, "he was a true scholar who when once given to an historical undertaking pursued it with all his will." Horgan also recalled that Fulton was "endlessly thorough, fair, objective, and indeed tireless."<sup>32</sup> As James D. Shinkle, a friend and fellow historian put it, Fulton probably did more original research and historical collecting than any three or four people.<sup>33</sup>

In his indefatigable endeavors, Fulton made a large contribution in collecting the testimonies of the pioneers of southeastern New Mexico. Included in these interviews were many accounts from persons who participated in the Lincoln County War and life stories from other early settlers of the Pecos.<sup>34</sup> Fulton was successful in getting interviews with these people, Robert Mullin, a fellow historian noted, because he was candid and straightforward in his inquiries. On many Saturday afternoons, the little, stoop-shouldered professor, who owned an old Ford but did not drive, was chauffeured through the New Mexico countryside as he searched for the cousin of an eyewitness to the McSween killing.<sup>35</sup> On other occasions, Fulton journeyed to Silver City to interview the classmates of Henry McCarty and to Arizona to get the testimony of a boyhood acquaintance of McCarty's and a fellow combatant in the Lincoln County War, A. M. ("Gus") Gildea. While he did not travel to England, he did carry on extensive correspondence with the relatives of John H. Tunstall, a participant in the troubles in Lincoln County.<sup>36</sup>

Fulton's interviews formed the nucleus around which he and his friends and relatives gathered other kinds of historical information.<sup>37</sup> These materials include correspondence from the Lew Wallace Collection in the Anderson Memorial State Library in Indianapolis and photocopies of extensive reports from the Department of the Interior and War Department stored in the National

Archives.<sup>38</sup> In addition, Fulton accumulated copies of numerous court records: surveyor records, deeds, grand jury reports, probate court records, bank notes, and district court proceedings.<sup>39</sup>

Fulton's collection of newspapers was equally impressive. It includes typewritten copies of Roswell newspapers from 1878 to 1897 and notes on significant articles dating from 1898 to 1945 in the same papers. Fulton also scrutinized other in-state newspapers such as the *Mesilla Valley Independent*, the *White Oaks Leader*, the *Cimarron News and Press*, the *Santa Fe New Mexican*, the *Lincoln Independent*, and the *Las Vegas Gazette* for their interpretations of happenings in southeastern New Mexico.<sup>40</sup> And pertinent magazines and periodicals were collected with equal diligence. Fulton's collections even include a typed list of references made to Billy the Kid in most secondary works.<sup>41</sup>

Because Fulton believed it was necessary for a historian to put himself into the place of his subject, he gathered, in addition to as many diaries and reminiscences as he could find, numerous maps, drawings, and photographs. He poured over maps for great periods of time, and when the information they yielded proved insufficient, he walked through the hills and valleys of southern New Mexico trying to relive the experiences of the 1870s and 1880s. This method of observation helped him discover the location of the murder of J. H. Tunstall.<sup>43</sup>

The large amounts of information that Fulton gathered augmented his growing reputation as the most knowledgeable individual on his areas of interest. For example, J. C. Dykes, the author of *Billy the Kid, the Bibliography of a Legend*, stated that "Fulton [was] the leading scholar on the Lincoln County War and its participants." Other authorities shared this opinion, for many established authors and non-professionals alike sought Fulton's advice in preparing their manuscripts. Erna Ferguson, author of *New Mexico: A Pageant of Three Peoples*, considered Fulton the "deepest student" of New Mexico history in the 1870s and 1880s and asked if he would check for errors in her *Murder and Mystery in New Mexico*. Governor Miguel Otero also sought the professor's assistance in writing his *Billy the Kid With Light on the Lincoln County War*, as did Frazier Hunt in preparing his *The Tragic Days of Billy the Kid*.<sup>44</sup> Nearly always Fulton responded to

such inquiries for information with detailed letters of three or four pages.

In spite of these flattering but time-consuming disruptions, Fulton continued the preparation of his magnum opus—the history of Lincoln County in the 1870s and 1880s. Progress, however, continued to be very slow for a number of reasons. For one thing, the Colonel continued his participation in local historical societies. He had been involved in the establishment of the Lincoln and Chaves county historical societies and the “Old Timers Association” of Roswell. In 1953, he served as President of the Chaves County Historical Society, and during his tenure, he conducted an especially active campaign to develop interest in local history.<sup>45</sup> The distractions of these community involvements were minor, however, compared to the economic worries Fulton experienced after his retirement in 1948. Fulton’s pension proved to be woefully inadequate,<sup>46</sup> and at the age of seventy-one, he took a job as curator of the Lincoln County Museum to help defray some of his expenses. Because of rather petty complaints involving Fulton’s attachment to cats,<sup>47</sup> he held the position for only one year. Thereafter, he supplemented his meager income by acting as a clearinghouse of historical information relating to the Southwest and southeastern New Mexico. While in these dire straits, Fulton sold valuable information and some of his books to support himself.<sup>48</sup>

These personal difficulties may have diverted Fulton from work on his manuscript, but they should not be considered entirely responsible for his failure to complete his work. As early as his editorial work on Garrett’s *Authentic Billy the Kid*, Fulton demonstrated an extensive familiarity with his subject and had, in fact, already begun to draft his manuscript on Lincoln County. Fulton’s growing obsession with the minute detail of events in the region and his attitudes toward writing are more important than disruptions and financial difficulties in explaining his slow progress on the manuscript.

Fulton became less and less willing to leave a stone unturned in his research. In a letter of 1953, he admonished a correspondent to remember the importance of minute details, for, as he put it, “they help mightily in bringing back how our ancestors lived in the

DIARY & LETTERS OF

*Josiah Gregg*

*Southwestern Enterprises*

1840-1847

*Edited by*

MAURICE GARLAND FULTON

*With an Introduction by*

PAUL HORGAN

*Norman*

UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA PRESS

1941

humdrum of their daily lives and business and will become in time priceless bits of narrative.”<sup>49</sup> Fulton’s papers are full of notes, written on any handy scrap of paper, reminding him to make additional inquiries into various topics. To the end of his life, Fulton remained immersed in his research, and he was on his way to El Paso to investigate recently-discovered evidence when he became ill. He died several days later on February 12, 1955.

Fulton’s experiences in writing differed little from his convictions on research; in both areas he worked steadily but slowly. Much of his deliberateness may be attributed to his contempt for superficial conclusions. As Paul Horgan recalled, the Colonel “weighed evidence like any superior court judge and never came to the subject matter with preformed conclusions.” Horgan also noted that Fulton was a perfectionist who constantly revised his texts.<sup>50</sup> Robert Mullin, who eventually edited Fulton’s *History of the Lincoln County War*, confirmed that the Fulton manuscripts were frequently revised.<sup>51</sup> Other delays occurred when Fulton compiled extensive chronologies, or “timetables” as he referred to them, which he constructed, elaborated, and reconstructed to give his manuscripts added veracity.<sup>52</sup>

After Fulton’s death, his manuscripts dealing with the Lincoln County War and his other papers remained in the hands of his wife until the University of Arizona purchased the collection in 1963. There, Fulton’s friend and literary executor, Robert Mullin, who had collaborated extensively with Fulton, attempted to salvage Fulton’s work on the Lincoln County War. Mullin’s extensive editorial work was necessary, for the manuscripts dealing with Lincoln County were incomplete and lacked documentation. Mullin’s task was further compounded because Fulton’s papers were disorganized and because the Colonel had preferred to keep much of his information to himself. Mullin, nevertheless, completed Fulton’s historical sketches which were eventually published in 1968 as *Maurice Fulton’s History of the Lincoln County War*.

This interesting volume provides a detailed account of the conflicts and personalities involved in the Lincoln County War and illustrates Fulton’s thinking about these topics. The book endeavors to elevate the Lincoln County War from a simple, local quarrel resembling the Hatfield and McCoy feud into a complex frontier

confrontation of economic and political forces that produced reactions not only in Santa Fe but also in Washington, D.C. Because Fulton succeeds in this goal, his book provides excellent insights into the dynamics of the American frontier. It also established that the Lincoln County War of the 1870s and 1880s produced few romantic figures and that, historically, Billy the Kid was much less than the legendary hero he has become.

Despite the important contributions of the book, it suffers from obvious shortcomings. The volume has no central thesis, and the various historical sketches it contains lack adequate transitions to provide a smooth-flowing narrative. While the book follows Fulton's practice of including the sources in the text, sparse documentation and the absence of a bibliography limit its value as a reference tool.

While admitting these limitations in Fulton's work, one can easily argue, however, that his published historical works are sufficient reason for his being remembered as a significant regional historian. Throughout his career, from his editorial work on Pat Garrett's *Authentic Life of Billy the Kid* through his extensive research in the *Lincoln County War*, Fulton gave readers a clear understanding of selected frontier experiences in New Mexico and the Southwest. Perhaps of even greater importance is his large contribution to scholars and to scholarship in other areas, Fulton was especially considerate and generous with his fellow historians—young and old. While his eccentricities may have amused several observers, his colleagues universally praised Fulton. Recalling Fulton's professional courtesy to him, Paul Horgan acknowledged that he "learned ever so much from him [Fulton] both about writing, and about editorial approaches."<sup>53</sup> Frederick Nolan, who dedicated his excellent *Life and Death of John Henry Tunstall* to Fulton, remembered that the Colonel, even as an "elderly man working under extreme difficulties," unstintingly offered assistance.<sup>54</sup> Likewise, Frazier Hunt dedicated his *Tragic Days of Billy the Kid* to Fulton, stating that the Colonel was the "unrivaled authority on the Lincoln County War, who generously supplied many of the documents, letters and newspaper accounts herein published for the first time."<sup>55</sup>

In short, Maurice Fulton made significant contributions to historical scholarship through his published works and to students

and scholars through his accumulation of historical materials. The volumes he edited and his extensive collection of nineteenth-century New Mexicana are valuable resources, ones that serious students of the history of New Mexico and the Southwest must consult.

#### NOTES

1. Interview with Eve Ball, April 1979. Fulton recounted this episode to his friend, Eve Ball, who later edited and published Mrs. Klasner's autobiographical account. See Lily Klasner, *My Girlhood Among Outlaws*, ed. Eve Ball (Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 1972).

2. Merritt C. Mechem was then governor and issued the rank order.

3. Eugene T. Jackman, "The New Mexico Military Institute, 1891-1966" (Ph.D. diss., University of Mississippi, 1967), p. 179. Most of Fulton's earlier publications were in English composition and literature. Fulton, along with Raymond Bressler and Glenn Hawthorne Mullin, edited *Questions on Readings in English Literature, A Student's Manual* (New York: The Century Co., 1915). Prior to this, he had edited *College Life, Its Conditions and Problems; A Selection of Essays For Use In College Writing Courses* (New York: Macmillan Co., 1914) and *Expository Writing; Materials for a College Course in Exposition by Analysis and Imitation* (New York: Macmillan Co., 1912). In addition to these popular texts which were frequently revised, Fulton also edited *Southern Life in Southern Literature, Selections of Representative Prose and Poetry* (Boston: Ginn and Co., 1917). Although his interest turned to history after moving to New Mexico, he continued to publish in the area of English composition and related fields. One such venture involved Fulton with Walter Leo Harrington in a book titled *Talking Well, A Book on the Art of Conversation* (New York: Macmillan Co., 1924). In these Roswell years, Fulton continued his interest in composition texts by editing *Writing Craftsmanship, Models and Readings* (New York: The Macmillan Co., 1926). Fulton also made significant literary contributions during these years in his editorial efforts with *Charles Lamb in Essays and Letters* (New York: Macmillan Co., 1930) and *College Shakespeare* (New York: Macmillan Co., 1931). The latter was a collaborative effort with Lilian K. Sabine.

4. Mary Lou Moore, "A Critical and Historical Analysis of the Maurice G. Fulton Collection of New Mexicana in the University of Arizona Library" (Master's thesis, University of Arizona, 1966), pp. 10-11.

5. Moore, "Historical Analysis," p. 17. The Maurice Garland Fulton Papers are in the Special Collections Library of the University of Arizona, Tucson (Fulton Papers). Boxes 11-15 of these papers contain materials and comments relating to these interests. Folder 2, Box 15 contains the most specific references.

6. Maurice G. Fulton, ed., *Pat F. Garrett's Authentic Life of Billy the Kid* (New York: Macmillan Co., 1927), p. v.

7. Fulton, *Garrett's Authentic Life*, pp. xiii-xx. Folder 1, Box 13 and Folder 2, Box 15, Fulton Papers.

8. Fulton, *Garrett's Authentic Life*, pp. 123-25. Fulton gave some consideration to doing an article on Bonney and Wallace.

9. Fulton traced the romantic image of Billy the Kid to three writers: Ash Upson, who wrote much of *Garrett's Authentic Life*; Walter Noble Burns, who produced *The Saga of Billy the Kid* (Garden City, N. Y.: Doubleday and Co., 1926), and Emerson Hough, the author of *the Story of the Outlaw, A Study of the Western Desperado* (New York: Outing Publishing Co., 1907). Folder 3, Box 15, Fulton Papers.

10. Fulton, *Garrett's Authentic Life*, p. xvii.

11. Fulton to William V. Morrison, December 11, 1949, Fulton Papers.

12. Fulton, *Garrett's Authentic Life*, pp. 57-59; Maurice G. Fulton to H. William Moore, January 8, 1954, as cited in Moore, "Historical Analysis," p. 17.

13. John W. Poe, *The Death of Billy the Kid*, with an introduction by Maurice Garland Fulton (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1933), pp. vii-viii, xxxix-xl; Robert N. Mullin, ed., *Maurice G. Fulton's History of the Lincoln County War* (Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 1968), p. 2.

14. Fulton to Moore, January 8, 1954, as cited in Moore, "Historical Analysis," p. 17.

15. Poe, *Death of Billy the Kid*, pp. xvi, 51-60.

16. Poe, *Death of Billy the Kid*, pp. vii, xxxiv, 60.

17. Interview with Eve Ball, April 12, 1979. Fulton recounted this episode to her years earlier. As indicated above, Ball went on to edit Lily Klasner's autobiography and to publish it as *My Girlhood Among Outlaws*; see note 1.

18. Paul Horgan to William E. Gibbs, March 30, 1979 (all correspondence to Gibbs in personal collection of author).

19. Maurice G. Fulton and Paul Horgan, eds., *New Mexico's Own Chronicle: Three Races in the Writing of Four Hundred Years* (Dallas: Banks Upshaw and Company, 1937), pp. ix-xii; letter from Maurice Garland Fulton to High School Principals, March 8, 1953, Box No. 760614, Chaves County Historical Society, Roswell, New Mexico (Bx. 760614, CCHS).

20. Edith Mirrielees, "Both Sides of the Rio Grande," *Saturday Review of Literature* XVI (July 3, 1937):16.

21. Josiah Gregg, *Diary and Letters of Josiah Gregg*, ed. Maurice Garland Fulton, 2 vols. (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1941, 1944), I:ix-xiii.

22. Horgan to Gibbs, March 30, 1979.

23. Gregg, *Diary and Letters*, I:ix-xiii.

24. Gregg, *Diary and Letters*, II:161.

25. Gregg, *Diary and Letters*, II:xiii-xiv.

26. Gregg, *Diary and Letters*, I:xiii, II:385.

27. Gregg, *Diary and Letters*, II:385.

28. Paul A. F. Walter, review of *Diary and Letters*, I, *New Mexico Historical Review* (NMHR) 17 (April 1942):169; Paul A. F. Walter, review of *Diary and Letters*, II, NMHR 19 (October 1944):346.

29. John T. Lee to Fulton, July 22, 1941, as cited in Moore, "Historical Analysis," p. 16.

30. Moore, "Historical Analysis," p. 9. Fulton often expressed an interest in writing a biography of Ash Upson.

31. Upon retirement from New Mexico Military Institute in June 1948, Fulton received the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, thus earning the title "Colonel." He was known by this title the remainder of his life.

32. Horgan to Gibbs, March 30, 1979.

33. Maurice G. Fulton, *Roswell In Its Early Years*, ed. James D. Shinkle (Roswell: Hall-Poobaugh Press, 1963), p. 1.

34. Robert N. Mullin provides a list of people interviewed by Fulton in Mullin's introduction to *Maurice Garland Fulton's History of the Lincoln County War*, pp. 4-5.

35. One friend recalls that because Fulton apparently did not trust door latches on automobiles he "sat in the middle of the front seat where he would then pull his golf cap down over his eyes and proceed to talk on and on." Interview with Harwood Hinton, March 23, 1979.

36. Mullin, *Lincoln County War*, p. 5.

37. This historical information constitutes the Fulton Papers. Arizona brought the collection through its field historian, John Gilchriese, for \$5,000. Even though the collection is essentially one of New Mexicana, the University of New Mexico did not purchase the materials. Harwood P. Hinton to Gibbs, January 8, 1980.

38. Mullin to Gibbs, April 13, 1979, Boxes 11-15, Fulton Papers. For specific references to these materials see Moore, "Historical Analysis," Chs. 6, 9, 10, 11.

39. Boxes 11-15, Fulton Papers. Also see Moore, "Historical Analysis," Chs. 6, 9, 10, 11.

40. Boxes 11-15, Fulton Papers. Specific references to newspapers in the Fulton collection may be found in Moore, "Historical Analysis," pp. 56-60.

41. Folder 6, Box 15, Fulton Papers.

42. Folder 6, Box 15, Fulton Papers. Fulton considered such reminiscences to be of considerable historical value. For his position on the matter, see Fulton to High School Principals, March 8, 1953, Bx. 760614, CCHS.

43. Mullin, *Lincoln County War*, p. 4; Moore, "Historical Analysis," pp. 50-55; Frederick W. Nolan, *The Life and Death of John Henry Tunstall* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1965), illustration No. 41.

44. Jefferson C. Dykes, *Billy the Kid: The Bibliography of a Legend*, University of New Mexico Publications in Language and Literature, no. 7 (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1952), p. 9; Erna Fergusson, *New Mexico: A Pageant of Three Peoples* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1951), p. 295; Erna Fergusson to Maurice Fulton, June 28, 1948, as cited in Moore, "Historical Analysis," p. 12; Miguel A. Otero, *The New Billy the Kid With Light on the Lincoln County War* (New York: Rufus Rockwell Willson, Inc., 1936), [p. VII]; Frazier Hunt, *The Tragic Days of Billy the Kid* (New York: Hastings Publishers, 1956), [p. VI].

45. Fulton to High School Principals, March 8, 1953, Bx. 760614, CCHS.

46. Almost every friend and colleague recalled the Colonel's great poverty in his later years. These included retired professors P. H. Gratton, William Roudebush, and Seth Orell of New Mexico Military Institute and his friend, Eve Ball.

47. Fulton loved stray pets, particularly cats, and he frequently spent his lunch money to buy food for these animals. As a result, while curator of the Lincoln County Historical Museum, Fulton took it upon himself to feed all of Lincoln's stray cats. After he rejected as unauthentic a would-be patron's gift to the museum, the frustrated individual launched a campaign to get Fulton removed, accusing him of running a "cat house." According to Robert Mullin, the effort was successful, and Fulton was removed. Mullin to Gibbs, April 13, May 21, 1979.

48. Interview with Harwood P. Hinton, March 23, 1979; interview with Eve Ball, April 12, 1979; Mullin to Gibbs, April 13, 1979.

49. Fulton to High School Principals, March 8, 1953, Bx. 760614, CCHS.

50. Horgan to Gibbs, March 30, 1979.

51. Mullin to Gibbs, April 13, 1979. Although the Colonel often called for simple, clear writing his capacity to write extended narrative might be questioned. Most of his published works were in the area of editorial annotation and in no case did he develop a lengthy narrative. Although Fulton taught English composition, his writing was not exemplary of first-rate prose style. Paul Horgan characterized Fulton's writing as "pedestrian" and "almost quaint in its archaisms of usage." Horgan to Gibbs, March 30, 1979. Eve Ball referred to Fulton's writing as "stilted" and filled with long complicated sentences. Interview with Eve Ball, April 12, 1979.

52. Boxes 11-16, Fulton Papers contain numerous elaborate chronologies of historical topics that interested Fulton.

53. Horgan to Gibbs, March 30, 1979.

54. Frederick W. Nolan, *The Life and Death of John Henry Tunstall* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1965), p. xiv.

55. Hunt, *The Tragic Days of Billy the Kid*, [p. V].