

Book Reviews

A Notorious Woman: Anne Royall in Jacksonian America. By Elizabeth J. Clapp. (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2016. Pp. 263. \$39.50, ISBN 9780813938363).

History is full of exceptional women, and yet history books rarely mention women unless they happen to have been married to exceptional men. Happily, writers have begun to document the lives of women who made their mark without the aid of husbands and famous families. One such woman was Anne Royall, whose experiences offer us insights into American social and economic life during the early 19th century. Born in 1769 and raised on the western Pennsylvania frontier, Anne Royall's childhood appears to have been filled with the harshness and casualties we typically associate with frontier life. Having survived it, she made her way to Virginia and did what many women in precarious circumstances have done throughout history: she married a wealthy, much older man. The marriage, which appeared to have been happy, lasted thirteen years. As such, Anne Royall's life would hardly merit a footnote in history were it not for the events that followed the death of her husband in 1812.

As was customary for the time, Major William Royall's will provided that his wife was to receive a life interest in his considerable estate, the remainder to go to one of his nephews. Royall's niece, however, soon filed a complaint claiming that the will was a forgery procured by Anne Royall. The lawsuit, and the debt collections accompanying it, dragged on for years so that, by the early 1820s, the now middle-aged Anne Royall realized she must find a means to support herself.

It is the means she chose which captured the attention of Elizabeth J. Clapp and inspired the writing of *A Notorious Woman: Anne Royall in Jacksonian America*. Deeply researched and written with an awareness of current scholarship on the role of women in early 19th century America, Clapp's study gives us the story of an upper middle class widow who, in her fifties, transformed herself into America's first widely-read female travel writer and newspaperwoman. Traveling alone from the swamps of the Gulf Coast to the backwoods of Maine, writing and hawking her self-published books as she went (including *Royall's Sketches: of History, Life, and Manners in the United States* (1826), and *The Black Book; or, A Continuation of Travels in the United States* (1828)), Royall was an oddity who might still have passed into history relatively unnoticed had she confined herself to travel writing. She did not.

As Clapp amply demonstrates, Royall was as opinionated as she was strong-willed, and she often shared with her readers her views on various topics of the day including education, Indian removal, and the evangelical movement. Despite her considerable popularity, her criticism of evangelicals eventually led to a backlash against her. In 1829, when she was almost

60 years old, a religious congregation with whom she had traded petty insults filed a complaint against Royall for being “a common scold” (p. 126). Following a sensational trial in Washington, D.C., Royall was found guilty and faced the puritanical punishment of a public ducking, which the prosecutor urged the court to enforce. The judge spared Royall that indignity. Instead, he fined her \$10, and required that she post a surety bond of \$250 to ensure her “continued good behavior” for a year (p. 144).

If evangelicals thought a conviction would stop Anne Royall, they were wrong. Beginning in December 1831, Anne Royall gave up travel writing and began publishing a newspaper which she would write and edit for the next 20 years. In founding the *Paul Pry* and its successor, *The Huntress*, Royall’s stated goal was to “expose corruption, hypocrisy, and usurpations in all” (p. 166). She continued to be a harsh critic of evangelicals and regularly challenged the political status quo in Washington. She also became an outspoken supporter of Andrew Jackson. Paradoxically, although she adamantly asserted her right to a political voice, Royall never aligned herself with the nascent women’s movement and actively denounced the call for women’s rights. She died on October 1, 1854, at the age of 85, having published the last edition of *The Huntress* on July 24 of that same year. According to Clapp, Royall is now regarded as a “fearless investigative journalist” who also developed “the technique of interviewing politicians” (p. 196).

Clapp, a Senior Lecturer in American History at the University of Leicester, suggests in her Introduction and at various points throughout *A Notorious Woman* that Royall’s public life affords us an opportunity to examine the role of the Second Great Awakening in shaping gender issues during the Jacksonian Era and beyond. In particular, Clapp sees the criminal charges against Royall as evidence of a broader evangelical mission to “limit and control female behavior” (p. 127). This may well be true: during a period of time in which historians have believed American women were encouraged to retreat from public life and focus on domestic and religious concerns, Royall did the opposite and was punished for it. Analyzing society’s response to her defiance of cultural norms could indeed provide a valuable addition to our understanding of the intersection between religion and gender. Unfortunately, Clapp is so focused on portraying Anne Royall’s notable life that her larger theme is never fully explored. Although she is careful to place Royall’s behavior in the context of the times, Clapp speaks only in generalities about the Second Great Awakening and the role of religion in Jacksonian America. Well written as it is, the book remains more a biography than an analysis of the power of evangelicals to shape and control the lives of women in the first half of the 19th century.

Melinda Meador

Murray State University

Grant Invades Tennessee: The 1862 Battles for Forts Henry and Donelson. By Timothy B. Smith. (Lawrence, Kansas: University Press of Kansas, 2016. Pp. 526. \$34.95, 978-0-7006-2313).

Timothy B. Smith's book discusses the importance of the Union victories over Fort Henry and Fort Donelson in early 1862. He argues that these victories determined the course of further Union campaigns in the western theater and that victories over Forts Heiman and Henry on the Tennessee River were more important in the larger picture of Union operations. While the capture of Fort Donelson indeed benefitted the Union war effort, the victory over Fort Henry served as the blow that solidified dominance over the western theater and the vital Tennessee River. Smith acknowledges the importance of the capture of Fort Donelson, but insists that the CSA's loss of Fort Henry "shook the Confederacy to its core from Richmond to New Orleans" (p. xiv).

Smith shows the significance of the Union capture of Fort Henry by describing the operation and its after effects. The battle of Fort Henry saw one of the first uses of ironclad gunboats in the western hemisphere, providing artillery support the Union. The gunboats proved so effective that the Union navy, not the army, won the fort. Union leadership and citizenry celebrated while the Confederacy showed understandable concern. In response, the CSA command enacted largescale strategic changes to deal with this new threat by concentrating large numbers of troops in Tennessee for defense. Confederate western defenses were dangerously compromised. Smith stresses that these Confederate defensive efforts began after the loss of Fort Henry, not Fort Donelson.

Next, Smith describes the Union capture of Fort Donelson and its consequences. General Ulysses S. Grant derived personal growth as a commander from this operation. Confederate counterattacks to escape the fort taught Grant, that counter to his previous thinking, southern forces were capable of planning and executing offensive actions. Grant responded with an all-out assault to end the breakout attempt which drove Confederate troops back and penetrated Fort Donelson's outer defenses. Confederate commanders either fled or stayed to conduct the surrender process. The Union capture of this fort had important outcomes domestically and internationally. Union morale experienced a boost. Grant's reputation increased. The CSA suffered a large loss of territory and manpower. Internationally, the loss of Fort Donelson decreased the likelihood of the Confederacy gaining European support.

Timothy Smith currently teaches history at the University of Tennessee at Martin. His other books about Civil War events include *Shiloh: Conquer or Perish* and *Corinth 1862: Siege, Battle, Occupation*.

Smith carefully maneuvers his work into a gap in American Civil War historiography. As previously mentioned, Smith admits to his deviation from other studies of the western theater by placing more emphasis and importance on Fort Henry as opposed to Fort

Donelson, which “certainly cuts against the grain of modern scholarship.” Also, he claims that his work is the first to truly examine the battles for Forts Henry and Donelson in a comprehensive tactical way, showing parts of the battle other historians have failed to mention or discuss in depth. The viewpoints of lower ranking soldiers, for example, were noticeably absent in other studies. He bases his conclusions about historiography on previous work conducted by Kendall Gott and Franklin Cooling. Gott fixates on how Confederate and Union high commands operated. Cooling focuses more on broader contextual elements like politics, economics, and society (pp. xii-xv).

Overall, Smith wrote a good book concerning Union operations on the Tennessee and Cumberland rivers. He wrote an in-depth narrative that gave plenty of details regarding troop movements, campaign conditions, relations between officers, and other important topics. However, this can seem to be an overload of information for readers seeking a concise narrative of events, their outcomes, and their significance. For example, the later chapters of the book describing the Confederate breakout effort and the Union counterattack that eventually forced Fort Donelson to surrender could have been shortened. Once again, this is a good book, but probably more appropriate for readers who are really interested in the details surrounding events in the western theater.

Timothy Smith used a variety of research materials and sources in his analysis to achieve his intended study goals. He stated that he used primary sources created by the soldiers themselves to communicate their perspectives regarding the battles and campaign conditions. Surprisingly, he claims that other historians did not pay much attention to sources related to lower ranking officers and enlisted men. His use of these materials conveyed the humanity and suffering of those taking part in military operations. For example, Confederate Captain Bidwell’s account of a night experienced at Fort Donelson during February, which happened to be in his words, “disagreeable,” and “sleepless and severely cold,” clearly conveys a sense of the adversity soldiers and officers endured (p. 238). Smith also consulted multiple archives and historical sites, most notably that of Fort Donelson National Battlefield.

John Ridge

Murray State University

Faith in Black Power: Religion, Race, and Resistance in Cairo, Illinois. By Kerry Pimblott. (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2017. Pp. 320. \$45.00, ISBN 978-0-8131-6882-1).

National television news in the late 1960s and early 1970s carried images of burning center cities such as Newark, Los Angeles, and Detroit to viewers throughout the United States as the civil rights struggle moved outside the South. The small town of Cairo (Kair-oh), Illinois, located across the Mississippi River from the Jackson Purchase community of

Wickliffe, Kentucky, shared the spotlight as it was wracked by racial violence and blacks boycotting of white-owned business concerns. Kerry Pimblott, assistant professor of diaspora studies and American history at the University of Wyoming, points out that Cairo was unusual in that black churches played a vital leadership role in shaping and supporting the black power movement there and avoiding the de-christianization that historians have detected associated with the movement elsewhere.

Pimblott provides the reader in the first half of her book with a riveting overview of Cairo's history with its economic disappointments as the limited number of jobs associated with river and railroad transportation failed to support a population that peaked at 15,000 in 1940 and shrank to less than half that by 1970. Racial tensions ramped up as whites held the best jobs in a community where blacks made up more than one-third of the population. Although Illinois did not have jim crow laws segregating the two races as in Kentucky and the Deep South, Cairo was a de facto southern city in the twentieth century. The fragile power sharing arrangement that blacks enjoyed in the nineteenth century by supporting local Republicans was shattered after Cairo repealed its ward system in favor of electing local officials at large. No blacks held public office there for nearly seventy years, Cairo students attended strictly segregated schools, and housing patterns and racial interactions kept the two races separate.

The seeds for change remained in Cairo's black churches and grew during the early days of the civil rights movement through Operation Open City and the establishment of the Cairo Nonviolent Freedom Committee with support from leaders of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee from Nashville. A number of white establishments and public facilities were targeted with considerable success for sit-ins and other tactics with desegregation as the goal. Racial tensions boiled over following the suspicious death in July 1967 of Robert Hunt Jr., a nineteen-year old black soldier, in his Cairo jail cell. His death brought on several years of violence in the town as blacks organized under the United Front and whites behind a White Citizens' Council. The United Front, led by Cairo-native Charles E. Koen, gained public attention with its boycott of many white-owned establishments.

The United Front, supported by local black churches and national religious organizations which helped with funding for its operations, enjoyed some success. Perhaps its biggest victory came with a court ruling in 1980 that struck down the at-large city council governance of Cairo. A return to the ward system gave blacks a voice in the city council and brought with it power sharing in city government and greater attention to the grievances of the black community. On the other hand, the 1968 election of President Nixon and the white backlash that he represented undermined outside public and private support for the United Front. A number of United Front leaders ultimately were caught up in the criminal justice system, not the least of whom was Koen sentenced on two occasions starting in 1991 for a total of twenty-three years. Cairo's decline was accelerated by what took place mid-century as

the population fell under 3,000 in the 2010 census, downtown stores closed, and the economy collapsed. One supporter of the United Front concluded recently that it had “won the battle but we lost the war” (pg. 226).

Pimblott has made a useful contribution to the history of black-white relations by focusing on a smaller city in what urban historian Henry Louis Taylor Jr. describes as the borderland. She often contrasts events in Cairo with those in Illinois outside of “Little Egypt.” However, she ignores places closer to Cairo such as the river counties of the Jackson Purchase where race relations was governed by jim crow statutes and the economic declines there tracked more closely with Cairo. I need to call to the author’s attention a serious problem with the only table offered on page 29 in which Cairo’s racial composition from 1850-1970 is to be displayed by number and percentage. She fails to convert fractions to percentages, so that blacks in 1970 were 37% of Cairo’s population, not 0.37 as the table states.

George Humphreys

Madisonville Community College (emeritus)

Irvin S. Cobb: The Rise and Fall of an American Humorist. By William E. Ellis. (Lexington, Kentucky: University Press of Kentucky, 2017. PP. 274. \$45.00, 978-0813173986).

After spending much of his life reading and studying American humor, historian William E. Ellis devoted more than six years to writing his latest book, *Irvin S. Cobb: The Rise and Fall of an American Humorist*. Foundation professor emeritus at Eastern Kentucky University, Ellis has written several books that involve special topics in Kentucky’s history, including *The Kentucky River* and *A History of Education in Kentucky*.

A native of Paducah, Kentucky, Irvin S. Cobb escalated to writing fame in the early twentieth century. After quitting school at the age of 16 to take care of his mother and siblings financially, he began an apprenticeship at the former *Paducah Daily News*, advancing to the publication’s managing news editor at the age of 19 – reportedly the youngest in the United States. He also wrote the humor column, “Kentucky Sour Mash,” for the former *Louisville Evening News*. In 1904, Cobb relocated to New York City, where his popularity grew as a reporter for the *New York Evening Sun*. He later penned a nationally syndicated column for Joseph Pulitzer’s *New York World* and covered World War I for *The Saturday Evening Post*.

In addition to his newspaper career, Cobb wrote short stories for magazines, published sixty-nine books, and crafted scripts for theater and film. His work garnered numerous

accolades. Early biographies about Cobb highlight his life and gift as a storyteller.¹ Later in 1941, three years prior to his death at the age of 67, Cobb published his memoir, *Exit Laughing*. No other book about Cobb has been published since his autobiography. Through a robust examination of Cobb's published writings, letters, newspaper reports, and other archival material, Ellis formulates an updated, comprehensive study detailing the contributions that Cobb made to journalism and American literature, bringing renewed attention to a "consummate wordsmith" who "is largely unfamiliar to today's readers" (p. 2).

Cobb, born in 1876, was a product of the Reconstruction era and the Jim Crow South. With African-Americans stereotyped in his work and racist undertones prevalent in some of his writings, Cobb's publications lost their favor as times changed throughout the twentieth century. However, Ellis made a case that Cobb's life and work should merit greater attention. The book chronologically tells the story of Cobb, but two major themes resurface at various stages of his life. First, Ellis reminds the reader that Cobb suffered from anxiety all his life and sought to overcome it through his ambition to be successful. Despite earning a sizeable income from his writings, Cobb "always felt like something of an underdog" because of his lack of formal education compared with other men he would meet during his career (p. 42). By his early 40s, he had created a literary empire that knew him as a newspaper reporter, humorist, short story writer, and best-selling book author. However, that was not enough for Cobb. He wanted to excel as a playwright and a movie scriptwriter, perhaps to overshadow the insecurities of a school dropout that he continued to harbor. Although he was not as successful as a playwright and during his brief movie career, "Cobb had the grit to venture into genres that frightened many others in his day" (p. 208).

Second, Ellis' research illustrates Cobb's persistence to establish his legacy in American literature. He sought new outlets for his writings, building an extensive "publication pattern" that transformed his published pieces in *The Saturday Evening Post* and other magazines into chapters in books (p. 85). Much of the reason for his consistent publication record and strong work ethic was to make a living and support his family. However, his critics saw him as a "hack writer" who recycled previously published stories into books (p. 158). He also traveled the lecture circuit, "delivering speech after speech without the use of notes," and "eventually came to enjoy this grind" (p. 76).

Cobb was inducted into the Kentucky Writers Hall of Fame in 2017, making this book a timely addition to the historiography of American journalism and humorists. This book is a

¹ Ellis cited several biographies written about Cobb and weaved them into his analysis. The authors who wrote about Cobb were Wayne Chatterton, who wrote *Irvin S. Cobb* (Boston: Twayne, 1986); Anita Lawson, *Irvin S. Cobb* (Bowling Green, OH: Bowling Green State University Popular Press, 1984); Fred G. Neuman, *Irvin S. Cobb: His Life and Letters* (Emmaus, PA: Rodale Press, 1938), and Robert H. Davis, *Irvin S. Cobb: Storyteller* (New York: George H. Doran, 1924).

helpful resource for modern readers, especially those who have an interest in topics pertaining to Paducah and other areas within the Jackson Purchase region of west Kentucky. For journalists, students and scholars of journalism, literature (both fiction and nonfiction) and popular culture, this biography places Cobb in a broader context of American literary history in the twentieth century.

Melony Shemberger

Murray State University

Robert Penn Warren's All the King's Men: A Reader's Companion. By Jonathan S. Cullick. (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2018. Pp. 124. \$24.95, ISBN 978-0-8131-7592-8).

Literary scholars might gleefully spend a lifetime analyzing and dissecting Robert Penn Warren's novel, *All the King's Men* (ATKM), while rookie readers could be overwhelmed at the thought of such an epic journey. Thanks to professor and scholar Jonathan S. Cullick, readers of every stripe now have a genial and generous Virgil to lead the way through 600-plus pages of the Warren work. *Robert Penn Warren's All the King's Men: A Reader's Companion* eases the journey, with Cullick offering a network of main routes and back roads that lead to the same conclusion: "The novel is the textbook for our time" (p. xv).

A Reader's Companion was a component of Kentucky Reads, a statewide literacy project of the Kentucky Humanities Council, designed to spark conversations about contemporary populism, political discourse, and their relationship to journalism. The project reached out to the public through KET's (Kentucky Educational Television) airing of the documentary "Robert Penn Warren: A Vision," a series of meetings and forums, and a symposium featuring historian and author Jon Meacham about Warren's impact on American literature and culture.

Dr. Cullick, a Robert Penn Warren scholar and Northern Kentucky University professor, infuses his book with a distinct brand of research and scholarship expressed in an accessible writing style. Part of his preparation included sending out more than seventy invitations to individuals in all three branches of Kentucky government ~ balanced between both political parties ~ and also to journalists and university presidents.

He asked when (and if) the contacts had read the book; what their general thoughts were upon reading it; and how ATKM is relevant to Kentucky and the nation today. Respondents were also asked to share their insights on lessons today's government officials and citizens could learn from the novel. In the end, Cullick received complete responses from thirteen people, and he incorporated their responses into the narrative.

Each chapter of the guide addresses a specific theme, starting with the life of Robert Penn Warren and his place in American literature. Chapter 2 offers an overview of the novel. Chapters 3 and beyond examine specific thematic and literary conventions, such as the role of “you” in the narrative, and the populist overtones in Willie Stark’s campaign style and stump speeches. In ten succinct chapters, Cullick covers a lot of ground, with room at the end for acknowledgments, discussion questions, detailed chapter notes, a comprehensive bibliography, and an index.

Readers can follow the guide straight through or choose chapters that address their questions and interests. Whatever the approach, readers cannot miss Cullick’s message that the novel is one that “we must read and re-read and continue to talk about” (xiii).

As a facilitator of community discussions of *ATKM*, I found Cullick’s guide a handy and informative reference. First, I read it straight through, taking copious notes and highlighting key passages. Sometimes while reading and re-reading sections of the novel, I found myself going back to Cullick’s analysis for further direction.

As a poet, playwright, and fiction writer, I was repeatedly drawn to Chapter 9 because Cullick provided insights into Warren’s writing process and how he developed the characters. For example, the novel’s narrator, Jack Burden, first appeared in Warren’s verse drama *Proud Flesh*, as a “shabbily and loosely dressed” reporter” (p. 68). As the idea of the novel began to take shape, Warren recognized that the anonymous reporter “might be useful” (p. 69).

As a columnist and civic journalist, I was intrigued by Burden’s transformation from reporter to political aide. In Chapter 8, Cullick quotes Jack saying, “I was supposed to cover his campaign,” referring to Stark’s political barnstorming. In his analysis, Cullick zeroes in on the word *supposed*, suggesting that Burden is not covering the campaign as a professional journalist. Instead, the reporter feels sorry for Willie and actually suggests ways to improve his speeches.

“That scene in the hotel room begins to set the stage and prepare the backdrop for the real show of Jack abandoning all pretense of neutrality, quitting his newspaper job, and ultimately accepting the job offer from Willie...Jack tells us that he is now a ‘pundit’; his job description has shifted from providing reports to providing commentary” (p. 72).

In a masterful demonstration of writing skills, Jonathan Cullick begins and ends *All the King’s Men: A Reader’s Companion* much like Robert Penn Warren began and ended the novel. Both entail a journey. The metaphor is especially effective in the Epilogue, when Cullick describes the pilgrimage he and his wife took to visit Warren’s grave in Vermont.

Their trek started on highways, then led to back roads, and finally veered off-road. When they encountered signs that said, “Enter at your own risk,” they did not turn back.

Readers of *All the King's Men* are encouraged to follow the Cullicks' example. The novel embarks on a rough and complicated journey that is worth the trip in spite of every bump in the road. With Cullick's guide, the trip is easier and more rewarding.

Constance Alexander

Kentucky Historical Society Governing Board (President)

A New History of Kentucky. By James C. Klotter and Craig Thompson Friend. 2nd Edition. (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2018. Pp. 560. \$44.95. ISBN 978-0-831-7630-7).

Since its 1997 publication, *A New History of Kentucky* has been the standard history of the state and has been used widely in Kentucky history college classes. However, the narrative ends during Governor Paul Patton's first term making the new edition a welcome event. Georgetown College professor emeritus James C. Klotter, who has earned recognition as the "State Historian of Kentucky," returns as co-author and updates the political history to the administration of Governor Matthew Bevin. Craig Thompson Friend, history professor at North Carolina State University and editor of *The Buzzel about Kentuck: Settling the Promised Land*, replaces the late Lowell Harrison and provides a substantial rewrite of the history through the Civil War that by itself makes the purchase of this edition worthwhile. The annotated bibliography, updated in this edition, numerous tables, and expanded use of maps and photographs are very useful to those interested in Kentucky history.

Friend brings to the story a revisionist perspective rooted in recent frontier historiography that gives women, Native Americans, and the slave population a more significant part in the settling of the state than many previous histories. For example, white women, expected to accept a secondary role to frontier fathers, husbands, and brothers, often are seen fighting side by side during Indian attacks and, on occasion, are reluctant to return to white society after capture in appreciation of the greater roles accorded women by various tribes. Friend explicitly rejects the perspective of historian Frederick Jackson Turner, originator of the orthodox viewpoint of western expansion as a conflict between the advanced civilizing influence of European pioneers and the inferior development of Native Americans. He also attributes the battles between the two sides in early Kentucky arising from a shift from exploitative settlement in which whites traded with Native Americans for valuable skins and fur in return for European trade goods to what Friend calls "settlement colonialism" demanding the removal of Native Americans from what was to become Kentucky.

Much of the discussion of the post-Civil War period is a carry forward by Klotter from the first edition ending with the 2015 election of Republican Governor Matt Bevin. The

political confusion that Klotter assigns to the state's political scene might have been erased had the narrative included the 2016 election results that gave Republicans landslides in the presidential and state legislative races and complete control of the governor's mansion and the Kentucky legislature. GOP control of the Kentucky House of Representatives gave new meaning to the term "the Solid South" in which Democrats are now minorities in all Southern legislative bodies.

The thematic chapters from the first edition on the state's economy, culture and communications, education and equality since the Civil War reappear and are also brought to the present. The book ends with a thought provoking chapter devoted to trends, continuities, and challenges, changed somewhat from the first edition, which suggests Klotter's uncertainty as to whether Kentucky will continue, despite the major progress associated with education reforms at the end of the twentieth century, to fail to take advantage of those reforms into the twenty-first century or, as happened numerous times in state's history allow, other states to pass it by.

The new edition, however, makes little advances over the original in terms of western Kentucky history. Friend adds information about ancient Native American development in the region, especially along the Mississippi River and, with his emphasis on the plight of Native Americans in Kentucky, fits acquisition of the Jackson Purchase in the struggle to manage settler encroachment on Indian country ending with later tribal relocation during the Trail of Tears. The author muddles somewhat that story in suggesting that Native Americans who arrived in Columbus, Kentucky waited to cross the Ohio River, rather than the Mississippi River, on their way west. Friend also overlooks the strong pro-Confederate sentiment in the Jackson Purchase evidenced in Barry Craig's excellent work *Kentucky Confederates: Secession, Civil War, and the Jackson Purchase*.

Klotter gives a nod to western Kentucky's political "ascendancy" starting with the 1947 election of Morganfield native Earle Clements as one of the region's four governors ending with the only Jackson Purchase chief executive, Paducah's Julian Carroll (1974-9). A strong argument can be made that the region's strong influence on state politics traces back earlier to governors Ruby Laffoon from Madisonville (1931-5), Albert B. "Happy" Chandler of Corydon near Henderson (1935-9), and Keen Johnson from Lyon County (1939-43). Other aspects of the region's history missing from this edition include the Cold War's influence in creating Fort Campbell near Hopkinsville and the massive uranium diffusion plant in Paducah that required large amounts of coal and electricity from the region that in return made possible the development of its major rivers for navigation, flood control, and recreation.

George Humphreys

Madisonville Community College (emeritus)

Heroes of Peace – A History of the Third Kentucky Infantry in the Spanish-American War
by Colonel Greg Eanes, USAF (Retired) (Crewe: VA: The Eanes Group, LLC, 2016. Pp. 200.
Paperback \$18.95, ISBN 9781530755349).

When the USS *Maine* was attacked in February 1898, President William McKinley called upon Kentucky to organize her volunteers for federal service in preparation for conflict between Spain and the United States. The Third Kentucky U.S. Volunteer Infantry was one of four units to respond. Comprised of troops primarily from the western Kentucky communities of the Pennyryle and Jackson Purchase regions, the Third prepared for deployment, but they never saw combat action in Cuba. Instead, they were ultimately sent to the foreign land on a peace-keeping mission.

In *Heroes of Peace*, author Col. Greg Eanes portrays this hardy unit and its eventual role as peace-keeping occupier of Cuba, shortly after Spain's formal surrender.

Colonel Eanes received his master's degree in Military History from the American Military University and he is certified by the Virginia Courts System as an expert witness in military history and veteran's affairs. An experienced military man, Col. Eanes draws upon his thirty-four-plus years in the U.S. Air Force to inform and share his understanding of the sequencing of military events leading up to the Third's eventual deployment to Cuba.

The Third Kentucky's daily life flows easily through Eanes comprehensive understanding of everyday rituals experienced by military regiments. He tells their story through accounts of provisions, meals, and leisure-time activities, to slang terms and the "re-lettering" of units (e.g. Company A to Company D, etc.) as they were organized into federal service.

The Second and Third Kentucky regiments were mustered-in based upon seniority of their captains. In typical Kentucky fashion, politics got in the middle of such affairs and problems immediately ensued. Many of the soldiers objected to the appointment of new officers whom they had neither elected, nor did they approve.

Despite political jostling for appointments, Col. Thomas J. Smith was named commanding officer of the Third. By the end of May, he led the troops as they deployed to Camp Thomas, located at the historic Chickamauga battlefield in Georgia, to prepare for war. The increase of troops grew so rapidly there was a lack of organization which led to contaminated water and few supplies. These structural problems quickly translated into unsanitary conditions, thus an outbreak of diarrhea, mumps, measles, and typhoid fever, which soon challenged their ability to serve.

To his credit, Col. Smith ordered a new camp to be laid out for the Third Kentucky to improve conditions for his men. He also identified local wells from which water could be

piped in for cooking and bathing. Smith would later testify before the Congressional Commission appointed by the President to investigate the War Department regarding their lack of preparation during the deployment.

Hostilities with Spain soon ended and as there seemed to be no apparent opportunity for the troops to serve overseas, many regiments disbanded and mustered out. While the Third Kentucky had its own difficulties, its military professionalism and eagerness to occupy Cuba on a peace-keeping mission, led it to be selected for retention.

The Third returned to Lexington, Kentucky and within a few months a selection of troops were chosen to serve in a public relations event in nearby Nicholasville. Through media accounts and medical reports, Eanes details one major incident during the Lexington encampment that nearly pitted the Third Kentucky with the Twelfth New York Volunteer Infantry in open combat. He also cites a second episode which involved a murder by a member of the Third. Even with these significant distractions, an article on November 1, 1898 in the *Paducah Daily Sun*, noted the men of the Third Kentucky “were anxious to make a reputation in the war which will make all Kentuckians feel proud of them.” (p. 40)

Heroes of Peace is organized chronologically, and Col. Eanes authoritatively incorporates brief narrative excerpts to move the story along. He links medical and other military records with reports from local, regional and state newspapers, diary entries and letters written by the troops themselves, to the political and historical landscape of the times. Numerous photographs and maps round out this detailed narrative which follows the Third throughout its call to serve.

On January 10, 1899, the Third Kentucky traveled on the U.S. Army transport *Minnewaska* for Matanzas, Cuba. For military buffs, the letters written by country boys to family members back home will be of great interest. Some of their correspondence was shared with local newspapers thus providing vivid travelogues, dotted with personal stories of beautiful women, interesting food and unusual critter encounters, some tempered with bouts of seasickness and loneliness. Eanes neatly uses these eyewitness accounts of people and places to bring their experiences to life.

With a mission of pacification, the Third’s primary value was its mere presence in Cuba; to make a safe, secure and stable environment as changes occurred.

Col. Eanes explains how a food shortage occurred and the important role the U.S. Army and Navy played in stabilizing the country during this occupation period. He also shares details of how private foundations such as the Cuban Industrial Relief Fund stepped up to help Cuba recover.

Military buffs will appreciate the chronology of the Spanish American War in relation to the Third Kentucky and the organization of Division and Brigade Assignments, as well as the inclusion of a regimental roster. If any addition might improve the book, a complete index of names and locations would be of value.

Eanes' informative book provides a personal encounter with the men who valiantly served in a non-combative role during the Spanish-American War. The Third Kentucky brought together a disparate group of volunteers to form one of the most effective regiments in the United States Army. Through their efforts, they brought peace and stability to a devastated foreign country. As was their desire, these men of western Kentucky established a reputation which deserves a place in Kentucky's history.

Bobbie Smith Bryant

Kentucky League of Cities