BOOK REVIEWS


In the late 1800's, the XIT Ranch sprawled for 3,000,000 acres across the Texas high plains, jammed against the New Mexico border. The saga of this fabulous spread will always loom large in the history and development of the west.

It has taken a slight, gentle woman, who in 1907 married Robert L. Duke, a ranch hand who had risen to a division manager for the XIT, to tell a different story of this giant ranch. What makes it different? She tells it as seen through the eyes of the ordinary cowboy that rode for this empire in the short grass country.

Cordelia Sloan Duke, always an eager observer, began a habit, early in her marriage, of keeping a diary. As time passed, she had the foresight to realize that the sweaty, tired and hungry cowhand was a unique phase of American life.

Over the years, she persuaded these nonwriting men—some barely literate, some with a fine sense of communication—to jot down descriptions of what they did as cowboys. This gentle persuasion resulted in Mrs. Duke's obtaining enough material for several books. In this book, she gives us a wonderful, deglamourized picture of the working cowhand.

These cowboys, wagon drivers, windmill mechanics and wranglers were quite remarkable in their story-telling. Some of them may have held a pencil no more than twice a year. Some of them wrote their thoughts, much the same as they spoke; straight to the point in as few words as possible. Nevertheless, they had much to say about men and horses, girls and dances, grass fires and blizzards, wind and windmills; very little about guns and gunmen.

Mrs. Duke and Mr. Frantz have presented the XIT cowboy as he was before and after the turn of the century and for this we are indebted to them, for the history of any era is made by the people who live it.

This is the first book in the M. K. Brown Range Life Series to be published by the University of Texas Press. This series was established through the generosity of Montagu K. Brown of Pampa, Texas, himself a Panhandle pioneer.

Hominy, Oklahoma

—Arthur Shoemaker
History in Publications of the Mennonite Church

Mennonite Country Boy. The Early Years of C. Henry Smith. By C. Henry Smith. (Faith and Life Press, Newton, Kansas. $4.00.)

This autobiography is another in the Historical Series published for the Historical Committee of the General Conference Mennonite Church.

The story of C. Henry Smith begins with the dream filled years of his youth lived in an Amish-Mennonite community in Pennsylvania. His father was a bishop in this community whose people gradually pulled away from what became known as the Old Order Amish and eventually became Mennonites. It ends with what he called the end of his long educational trail, when he was about to receive his doctor's degree from the University of Chicago.

This is a beautifully written book and a scholarly account of his research in the history of his religion. He portrays the Mennonites as pioneers in the rise of religious toleration, as the spiritual forefathers of both the Baptists and the Congregationalists, and as a race of nonconformists whose whole social program was the Sermon on the Mount completely and literally accepted.


This autobiography of Christian Krehbiel is also a historical account of the Palatinate immigrants to the Middle West, beginning in the 1830's, and the Mennonite migration from Russia in the 1870's.

Christian Krehbiel began his life in the German Palatinate. He came with his parents and relatives to America in 1851. They lived for a short time in Ohio and then settled on farm land in Illinois. Christian was ordained to preach in 1864. After ten years in Illinois, he moved his family to Kansas, where he lived the remaining years of his life. He worked his farm on week days and preached on Sundays. However, his duties as a preacher soon demanded more of his time as he was called upon to assist in organizing churches in the various groups.

The stream of Mennonite immigration from Russia in the 1870's did not limit itself to the Middle West. Many larger and smaller groups settled in Minnesota, South Dakota, and Canada. This wide dispersal was good for the church. It was expected that they would rapidly multiply and, had they all settled in one colony, they would not have expanded as they have.
The agricultural abilities and business enterprises of these Mennonites brought them prosperity. Lest this good fortune lead them astray from the true source of help, the fathers spared no effort in building churches and denominational schools.

It was during Christian Krehbiel's lifetime that the union of the Mennonite Church was accomplished, and the General Conference Mennonite Church was organized. The fruits of this endeavor are seen today in the district conferences, schools of higher learning, church papers, and the missionary program in many of our states and several foreign countries.

This book was published for the Historical Committee of the General Conference Mennonite Church as one in its Historical Series. It was translated from the original German by a granddaughter of the author, Mrs. Elva Krehbiel Leisy.

Stillwater, Oklahoma —Mattie S. Johnson


This is the third book in a projected six volume "The American Epoch Series" devoted, according to the blurb on the dust jacket, "to pivotal periods in American history as revealed in the writings of the men and women who participated in the shaping of those periods." Two volumes in the series previously have been published. Books of "readings" seem to be a popular form of bookmaking these days, and this is perhaps one of the more successful efforts. In contrast to many edited works of a similar character which are composed of short snatches from the writings of many authors, this collection, except for two or three cases, gives the whole composition or such long excerpts that the reader will probably gain the gist of the views and evidence of each contributor. This is a difficult book to review. Perhaps most of the selections are from the familiar literature of the so-called "progressive movement," (a label, incidentally, which Professor Pease seems to have assiduously avoided using), to which students of American history have been exposed for four or five decades, and some of the works are available in paperbacks.

The progressive movement was a many faceted thing with each reformer usually sticking to his own particular interest and not especially concerned with remaking the whole image of America. One might be concerned with the city (settlement houses, tenement houses or structure of government), another with political reform of city, State or Nation, another with
trust "busting," regulation or control of big business, still others with protection of women and children in industry or of the small business man, or improving the economic, intellectual and social conditions of labor and small farmers, or with other facets of the evils or undesirable effects of the industrialization of American society and how to remedy them. Thus, any selection of writings from the period must necessarily rely upon the judgment of the editor. Pease has provided no particular criteria as to the basis for his selections, but in his choice from the writings of an even dozen authors he has included those who may be said to have provided the intellectual leadership of the reform movement between the turn of the century and American intervention in the first World War, which mirror the philosophy, hopes and expectations of the reformers of the period. And within the limits of the material available, Professor Pease has included several selections which do portray more than one phase of reform in a single article. Writers represented in these pages are Frederic C. Howe, Jane Addams, Robert De Forest and Lawrence Veiller, Lincoln Steffens, Basil M. Manly, Eugene V. Debs, Theodore Roosevelt (2 selections), Woodrow Wilson (6 speeches), Walter Lippman and William James. Since most writers of the progressive period were so deadly serious, the short selections from Finley Peter Dunn's Mr. Dooley provide a welcome relief of humor and irony on labor troubles, immigration, the Philippine peace and the Hague Conference.

While at first glance this collection seems to cover a variety of subjects, there is a common thread which unifies these, as well as the writings of most reformers during these years,—the undesirable results which industrial development has imposed upon, perhaps, the majority of the people of the United States, and the need for the government to expand its powers and functions for the benefit of all of the people. Most of the writings demonstrate a confused line of thinking, infused with a hope and a naive faith in a mystical sort of Democracy and salvation to be gained by more democracy. Although the progressives regarded themselves as forward looking, from the perspective of more than half a century it would appear that while they were looking forward in some degree, many of them were often looking backward in a greater degree to providing through government intervention the better conditions of a past era. They vaguely assumed that the masses of mankind, if provided with the proper leadership and reform of the structure of government, would bring about the good society. None of those whose writings are included were revolutionaries. In some respects they would appear to the historian of the present generation as conservatives who were bent on modifying and patching up the existing structure, rather than of destroying it, or even changing it in fundamental ways.
One might quibble as to why the editor did not present some examples from the more sensational muckraker literature of the period, or why he included the long and strident defense of his foreign policies taken from Roosevelt's *Autobiography*, which may or may not represent the attitude of most progressives. However, it is the prerogative of an editor to choose what, to him, is most significant or representative for the purposes he has in mind.

Professor Pease has provided a broad and sweeping introduction of twenty-one pages which will help to orient the reader into the conditions and spirit of the time. He has also included a useful introduction to each of the five parts into which the book is divided. The collection as a whole will prove of interest to the reader who has neither the time nor inclination to read the voluminous literature extant on the progressive movement, and it should also be a useful reference book for college students in recent American history courses, as well as for the scholars of the period.

—O. A. Hilton, Professor of History

*Oklahoma State University*

*Stillwater, Oklahoma*

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This new book by Frederick J. Pohl, well known as an authority for his studies of the expeditions of the Vikings and other pre-Columbian voyagers across the Atlantic is interesting—even exciting—to Oklahomans since the whole of Chapter 4 is devoted to the "Heavener Runestone" in Le Flore County, counted as one of the mysteries in Oklahoma. This great flat rock standing 12 feet above ground, 10 feet in width and 2 feet thick, on which are 8 characters each 9 inches in height, evidently very old carvings like ancient "runes" of Northern Europe, is located in an almost inaccessible part of the Poteau Mountain northeast of Heavener, hence the name the "Heavener Runestone."

This great rock and its peculiar carvings deeply interested a young girl, Gloria of the community (now Mrs. J. Ray Farley of Heavener), and to learn about the meaning of the strange writing became a hobby that has developed into a long-time study of the ancient, monolith of stone on the side of the mountain. She made little headway in gaining the attention of those in authority on geological formations and peculiar inscriptions. Yet she wrote to many persons on the subject, sent for
and read all that she could find on so-called "rune characters." At last, after many letters of description and some of the verifications that the great rock and its "runes" had been seen by persons in the vicinity for many, many years, Mrs. Farley had interested Mr. Pohl in the great stone with its peculiar inscription. He and Mrs. Pohl made the cross country drive from New York to Heavener, Oklahoma, to talk with Mrs. Farley and her friends. A trip was arranged by them, and by jeep and long walks of rough-going through the hillside brambles, woods and rocks, Mr. and Mrs. Pohl reached the great stone monument near a gulch on the side of a ridge on the Poteau Mountain. Oklahoma was honored by Mr. Pohl's visit, and a special committee from the Oklahoma Historical Society headed by Mr. George H. Shirk, President of the Society, went to Heavener to meet the author and his wife. There was much skepticism on the subject at the time, and no definite decision was made on the possible identity of the "rune stone" inscription or its history though some conclusions were made on the geological formation of the stone and that the "rune" characters had been carved there for a long period. A report of the visit with Frederick J. Pohl and some of the background of the great stone in local history, illustrated with a facsimile of the actual "rubblings" made of the eight characters carved on the stone, were given by Mr. Shirk in *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, autumn number (1959), Vol. XXXVII, No. 3, pp. 363-68.

Frederick J. Pohl is the author of several books on pre-Columbian expeditions across the Atlantic to America, the first titled *The Sinclair Expedition to Nova Scotia in 1398*, and among the other books his volume *The Lost Discovery*, in which he goes far back in history—as early as 800 A.D.—and retraces the expeditions of mariners of many nationalities in their voyages across the Atlantic. The exploration of the Northeastern Coast of America by Leif Ericson about 1,000 A.D. is a well known and accepted part of American history. Mr. Pohl made a special study of Norse literature, and other related relics referring to the Voyages of the Vikings from Europe to the New World.

*Atlantic Crossings before Columbus* gives new materials on the Vikings and other nationalities in America, the book containing twelve chapters that include Leif Ericson's Vinland, Prince Madoc of Wales, the Round Stone Tower at Newport, Rhode Island, and a whole chapter devoted to the subject "Inscriptions, False and Genuine." Mr. Pohl's approach is always the work of a scholar, indicated by his "Selected Bibliography" at the end of the new book, as well as extensive travel and study in this country and abroad, and his archaeological findings in two "digs" for the Massachusetts Archaeological Society. Chapter 4—"Heavener Runestone"—reveals much that sheds light on
the meaning of the inscription of eight characters and the possibility of its great age. These points have led Mr. Pohl to state that "in the present state of our small knowledge, which is limited to runic inscriptions, no valid objection can be raised against the combination of runic forms in the Heavener inscription; that the philological evidence corroborates the geological evidence as to its great age."

It is truly said that the talent of Frederick J. Pohl as a writer and researcher lies in his "uncovering commonly held misconceptions," and that he has the true detective awareness of the "difference between persuasive evidence and proof."

Readers of *Atlantic Crossings before Columbus* will find thorough and convincing reconstruction of pre-Columbian voyages and reading as "exciting as fiction yet the author never fails to search for truth as a revelation of human nature."

—Muriel H. Wright

*Oklahoma Historical Society*

*Oklahoma City*


The name of Philip Henry Sheridan evokes much interest in Oklahoma. He was in present Oklahoma many times, whether as a military commander or in Oklahoma informally on a hunting expedition. He was a great figure and a superb soldier; and any book that brings to us a century later a clear-cut and well chiseled portrait of his character and personality is worthwhile.

Throughout the War the Shenandoah Valley was a continuing lure to the Confederates. Rich agriculturally and thus of logistical importance, it was of great strategic value in that it seemed to General Lee as the ideal entry road to Lincoln's Washington. The Spring 1862 Valley campaign of Stonewall Jackson helped sustain the belief. In 1864, Lee determined to again make the Valley a scene of a major Confederate effort; and the presence in the Shenandoah of General David Hunter contributed to Lee's decision.

In the Summer of that year, General Jubal Early, a sharp-tongued and strong-willed personality, was given command of a major Confederate force with instructions to clear the Valley of Yankees and to institute a drive on Washington. Early entered upon his task with vehemence and vengeance; and was so successful that he was actually within eye-sight of Washington. A fascinating quirk of history will remain an enigma as to why Washington escaped.
Swift Union countermeasures were required. Sheridan was designated to drive Early to the south. From then on, the campaign became a fierce and vicious contest between these two men. Sheridan was to succeed; and his three victories of Winchester, Fisher's Hill and Cedar Creek provide the subtitle for this volume, for indeed Sheridan was the nemesis for Jubal Early.

The volume is complete, to the point, and is understandable to the arm-chair Civil War tactician. The device of showing all Confederate units, commands, and names in italics adds to the ease in following the respective forces. The cartography is quite good, and the appendix includes a table of participating troop units and casualties.

—George H. Shirk

Oklahoma City

Short Stories on the Bible. By Bert Hodges. (The Christopher Publishing House, Boston, 1962: Pp. 117. $2.50.)

The author's presentation here of subjects from the Scriptures has substance and is stimulating and to the point, giving fresh emphasis to the wonderful thoughts of Biblical times that are fitting and inspirational today.

Mr. Hodges' wide experience in both the newspaper business and State affairs together with his natural gift and profession as a writer makes his book Short Stories of the Bible particularly readable. It will interest the most critical for its pungent, penetrating style of writing. The thirty-three stories are scholarly and give evidence of the author's long and extensive reading and study of the Bible.

Each of the stories is short and in an attractive format with good print, covering such Bible subjects and thoughts as "St. John, the Divine," "David's Poetic Mind," "Joseph's Wise Provision," "Love" and "Fear." One of the stories on "Chariots in the Bible" brings us close in Oklahoma history though none of these facts are recounted by Mr. Hodges since they go beyond his writing. Mention here is made of the song "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" which was composed and first sung in the Indian Territory long before the Civil War. A stone monument in memory of the noted tribal academy for Choctaw boys, named for Secretary of War John C. Spencer, has been erected on the original site of the school in Choctaw County, by the Oklahoma Historical Society. This monument mentions the song "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" so well known in America, and tells about its Negro slave composer "Uncle Wallace" and his wife, Minerva, who joined him in the singing as they went about their
work, inspired by hearing the Bible read and the preaching of the Christian missionaries in charge of old Spencer Acadmey.

The author, Mr. Bert Hodges long a resident of Okmulgee, Oklahoma, is well known in the newspaper field as former owner of the Okmulgee Daily Times and as a columnist for nearly thirty years. He served several terms in the State Legislature beginning in 1917, and in a special session, he introduced and obtained so many laws affecting newspapers that the Speaker of the House referred to him as “The Man from Newspaper County,” which is still his nickname among his old associates. Mr. Hodges also authored the bill that passed the State Legislature securing woman’s suffrage in Oklahoma before National legislation gave this privilege. In a later session, he obtained passage of the bill that vitalized the national legislation on woman’s suffrage.

Short Stories of the Bible gives fresh thought and guidance in this time of vast changes and of unsolved problems, an antidote that will lead to the author’s own conclusion in his book: “If there are some whose Bibles have gathered dust for want of use, neglect not its teachings... for inside its covering are the keys to eternal life.”

—Muriel H. Wright

Oklahoma Historical Society
Oklahoma City

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA LIBRARIES
MISCELLANEA PUBLICATIONS


Number 1 of “Miscellanea Publications” of the University of Georgia is the first publication of the “Laws of the Muscogee Nation” in manuscript written by Chilly McIntosh for his cousin, Governor George M. Troup of Georgia, on January 7, 1825. Chilly, born about 1800 near Coweta, Georgia, was the oldest son of the noted Chief William McIntosh of the “Muscogee Nation” (i.e. Creek Nation), and as a young man held the commission of major in the United States Army during his residence in Georgia. He was a signer of the Creek treaty at Indian Springs, Georgia, in 1825, which was repudiated by the great majority of the Creek people, for the sale of their tribal lands, and resulted in the feud in the Nation that brought the death of Chief William McIntosh. Chilly McIntosh moved to the Indian Territory at an early date and was always prominent in the
affairs of his Nation. He was a signer of the Treaty of 1838 at Fort Gibson, and the Treaty of 1856 at Washington, as a delegate of the Creek Nation. At the outbreak of the War Between the States, he was commissioned Lieutenant Colonel of the Second Creek Regiment in the Confederate States Army. He commanded a battalion of the Creek Regiment, and was in the thick of the Battle of Round Mountain, November 19, 1861, against the Union Creeks, fought near the "ox bow" of the Red Fork (or Cimarron) River in the so-called Keystone Region, some 7 or 8 miles south of present Cleveland in Pawnee County. The name of "Lieut. Col. Chilly McIntosh" appears among the officers in this battle, cited for their "great coolness and courage" by Colonel Douglas H. Cooper, Commanding Indian Department, C.S.A.

Editor Antonio J. Waring has made a fine contribution to history in his *Laws of the Creek Nation*, his introduction briefing the history of the Creek people and the prominent McIntoshes in the period just before the final removal of the Creeks from Alabama. His book gives a facsimile of the first page of the Creek laws in the handwriting of Chilly McIntosh, and publishes (with notes) the fifty-six laws in force on March 15, 1824. Mention is made of Agent Benjamin Hawkins, one of the greatest of U.S. Indian agents in history, who dedicated his life to the Creek people and, in return, was respected and revered by them. The first written laws of the Creek people appeared in 1818, that point up the character and the progressive development of their Nation prominent among the so-called Five Civilized Tribes in the history of Oklahoma.

*John Howard Payne and His Countrymen*, Edited by Clemens de Baillou. (University of Georgia Press, Athens, 1961. Pp. v, 61. $2.00.)

Number 2 of "Miscellanea Publications" of the University of Georgia is a reprint of "John Howard Payne to his Countrymen" from the *Knoxville Register* (Tenn.), the original address by John Howard Payne having been submitted by Robert Campbell and published in *The Augusta Constitutionalist* on December 23, 1835. This address gives an account of his abduction from the State of Tennessee and his imprisonment in Georgia by the Georgia Guard. Campbell in his note of transmissal to the paper says that all should be acquainted with this outrage, adding, "Every man of patriotic feeling within its borders will regret that any power with the semblance of state authority should have acted in such a Banditti-like manner towards the amiable and talented author of 'Home Sweet Home'!"

In his introduction to the book, Editor de Baillou briefs
the life of John Howard Payne as well as the events in the Cherokee Nation before the sale of their lands in Georgia, stating as a part of his conclusion: "Payne speaks not only for the Cherokees, but blends his literary style and feelings with theirs; an almost Biblical, dramatic style with a touch of classical rhetoric had become their own. The simplicity of early Christian civilization had developed under the influence of missionaries, and with it purity of feelings and expression. This address, far from being merely a political pamphlet, will be remembered for its literary value."

Payne's address is literature and true history as well. The University of Georgia and its Press are to be congratulated on this fine reprint in the hands of Editor Clemens de Baillou. It is another recent expression of appreciation and deep feeling of goodwill of the people of the State of Georgia toward the Cherokees, along with the beautiful restoration of the New Echota; the Cherokee capital near Calhoun, Georgia, and its dedication in 1962. See, Dedication Ceremony and Governor Vandiver's address in The Chronicles, summer, 1962, (Vol. XL, No. 2).

—Muriel H. Wright

Oklahoma Historical Society
Oklahoma City


It is a truism to say that the story of the westward development of the American railroad is the history of the westward course of American civilization. Usually, eastern railroad development connected existing centers or were to serve areas already opened by earlier means of transportation. In the West, however, the railhead was literally the terminus of man's development; and any volume dealing with the creation of a western rail system serves as the skeletal frame upon which much history may properly hang.

The late Wilson McCarthy, then President of the Denver and Rio Grande Western, saw the importance of an objective and complete history of his line and the contribution it would make to the bibliography of western history. As mentioned in the volume's preface, the author agreed to accept the commission "provided no control of any kind would be exercised and that all interpretations and conclusions" would be his alone. The wisdom of such an approach is rewarding and has resulted in a most excellent book. Several of our other railroads have in like
manner made possible the publication of volumes of merit and this present contribution will rank among the foremost.

The history of man's conquest of the Rockies, resulting in the first Colorado line west from Denver to cross the mountains is a fascinating and exciting tale. Rich with illustrations and documented with at least a dozen maps, the inherent worth of the volume is full recompense for the price. It is recommended to all who find fascination and pleasure in the great West.

—George H. Shirk

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma