

"Fear God and Walk Humbly": The Agricultural Journal of James Mallory, 1843-1877, edited by Grady McWhiney, Warner O. Moore Jr., and Robert F. Pace. Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 1997. xxi, 687 pp. Illustrations, map, notes, index. \$49.95 cloth.

REVIEWED BY GILBERT C. FITE, UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA, EMERITUS

Not many farmers, either in the past or the present, have kept detailed diaries of their life and farm activities over a long time span. James Mallory, who farmed in Talladego County, Alabama, was an exception. He kept a remarkable and detailed diary for most days in the thirty-four years from 1843 to 1877.

This wonderful documentary of farm life covers a wide range of activities and opinions. Mallory was a diversified farmer; although cotton was his main cash crop, he also raised corn, wheat, oats, rye, vegetables, and livestock. The diary reveals some of the frequent and difficult problems faced by farmers, including plant diseases, drought, floods, and low prices. It also provides insights into Mallory's progressive farm practices, such as fertilization, crop rotation, and others. Mallory was a deeply religious man, and he made numerous entries about the state of religion in his community. There are also occasional comments on national and even international affairs. In short, Mallory's diary opens up for readers a clear view of farming and farm life on a moderate-size family farm in the South over a long and important period in American history.

Those who want to gain a better understanding of the rural heritage of the South and the nation will find this book of great value. It is splendidly edited and published in an attractive form. There are abundant footnotes that clarify terms used by Mallory that may not be familiar to an urban generation. An understanding of midwestern farm life could be enhanced by the publication of similar diaries kept by farmers in Iowa or other midwestern states. Every effort should be made to preserve those still extant and publicize their contents.

The Underworld Sewer: A Prostitute Reflects on Life in the Trade, 1871-1909, by Josie Washburn. Introduction to the Bison Books Edition by Sharon E. Wood. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1997. xix, 342 pp. Illustrations, notes. \$15.00 paper.

REVIEWED BY THERESA KAMINSKI, UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-STEVENS POINT

The Underworld Sewer is a reprint of former prostitute and ex-madam Josie Washburn's 1909 exposé of prostitution in Nebraska, her personal attempt to purge "social evil" from society and denounce the

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