

Book Reviews

Texas Tears and Texas Sunshine: Voices of Frontier Women, edited by Jo Ella Powell Exley. The Centennial Series of the Association of Former Students, Texas A & M University 17. College Station, Texas: Texas A & M University Press, 1985. xiii, 275 pp. Illustrations, references, index. \$14.95 cloth.

Texas Tears and Texas Sunshine is a collection of first-person accounts by women of their roles in Texas history. The editor, Jo Ella Powell Exley, has crafted these narratives around a quilt motif. "Texas Tears" and "Texas Sunshine" are, respectively, early and late quilts designed by the same Texas woman. Exley's women did more than create quilts; their own lives formed discrete swatches in the sprawling patchwork of Texas life.

Exley carries out the theme in her chapter organizations. The first chapter, entitled "Log Cabin," includes the memoirs of three early Texas women. The second chapter, "Lone Star," consists of three reminiscences of the Republic years. "Texas Tears," chapter four of the collection, deals with the Civil War era and includes five memoirs, as does the final section, "Texas Sunshine," which chronicles the High Plains frontier years. All of the memoirs are lively, although hardship and suffering prevail. The reminiscences contained in the last chapter are more hopeful, hence the title "Texas Sunshine." The editor does not speculate on the reasons for the change in tone, but the decline of epidemic diseases, a lessened Indian threat, and the openness of the Plains seem to be contributing factors.

This book differs from an earlier set of "women in the states" books reviewed here previously (48: 87-90) because it contains memoirs and autobiographies exclusively, while the others consisted of analytical pieces written by scholars. Each type of work has its place. For those who enjoy first-person accounts of women's lives or who are interested in Texas history, this book will be useful. Exley has performed an important service in locating obscure and out-of-print material and making it available to the public.

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The Web of Southern Social Relations: Women, Family, and Education, edited by Water J. Fraser, Jr., R. Frank Saunders, Jr., and Jon L. Wakelyn. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1985. xvii, 257 pp. Notes, index. \$25.00 cloth.

The Web of Southern Social Relations is a collection of essays presented at the "Symposium on the South: Education, Family, and Women," held

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