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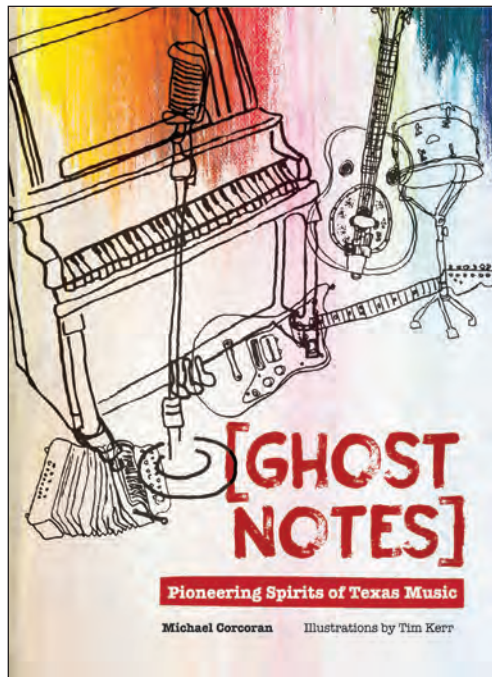
[Ghost Notes]

Pioneering Spirits of Texas Music

Michael Corcoran

“Ghost notes” is a musical term for sounds barely audible, a wisp lingering around the beat, yet somehow driving the groove. The Texas musicians profiled here, ranging from 1920s gospel performers to the first psychedelic band, are generally not well known, but the impact of their early contributions on popular music is unmistakable. This beautiful Tim Kerr-illustrated collection provides more background on the Texas from which these artists sprang, fully formed. Readers will learn about the black gay couple from Houston who inspired the creation of rock ‘n’ roll, as well as the true story of the origin of Western Swing. They will learn about “the first family of Texas music” and the birth of boogie-woogie, the dirt-poor singers and the ballad collectors who saved folk songs during the Depression, and the accordionista whose musical legacy was never contained on recordings but was passed on by his protégé. The pioneers of modern times include the Dallas rapper who became the wordsmith of gangsta rap, the sheriff’s son from Dumas who produced the signature tunes of Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin, and the blind lounge singer Kenny Rogers called the greatest musician he’s ever known.

MICHAEL CORCORAN has been covering Texas music since 1984, first as an acerbic columnist for the *Austin Chronicle*, but more recently as a “rock ‘n’ roll detective” (*The Times of London*) whose 2016 book/CD about gospel curiosity Washington Phillips received two Grammy nominations and was praised in the *New York Review of Books*. His 2012 book/CD on Arizona Dranes was also nominated for a Grammy. He recently moved back to Austin after four years of isolation and small-town exploration.



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8½x11¾. 160 pp. 12 color.

Music. Texana.

March

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George T. Ruby

Champion of Equal Rights in Reconstruction Texas

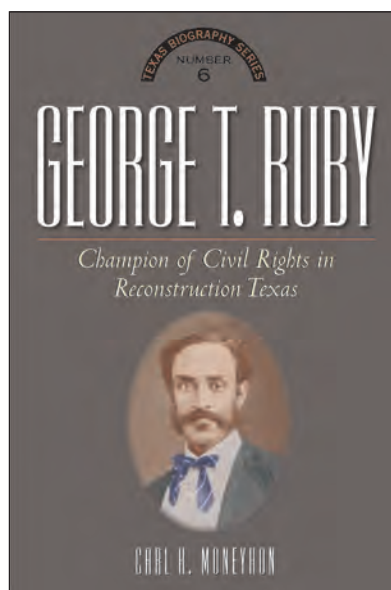
Carl H. Moneyhon

George T. Ruby was the most widely known of the first generation of black politicians in Texas, establishing during the Reconstruction both a local and national reputation as a strident advocate of equal rights. Born in New York City and reared in Maine, Ruby demonstrated his desire to secure a better place for African Americans at an early age. He migrated to Haiti shortly after graduating from high school as part of an effort to colonize American blacks in a world where their futures were not limited by their race. During the Civil War he moved to Louisiana, where he worked as a teacher among the freedmen. In 1867 he moved to Texas, where he again taught school as an employee of the Freedmen's Bureau.

Ruby became involved in politics in Texas with the beginning of Congressional Reconstruction in 1867. As an agent of the Loyal League, he became a major force in organizing blacks to vote, and his connections allowed him to run successfully for the 1868 Constitutional Convention. Elected president of the Loyal League in 1868, Ruby used his position to help elect Edmund J. Davis governor in 1869 and also to go to the state senate from Galveston. In the senate he supported the broader agenda of the Republican governor and in return secured support for his own efforts to ensure the protection of basic civil rights for African Americans. At the same time, he established connections with black politicians nationally.

Ruby headed the Texas Republican Party in its unsuccessful efforts at retaining power in 1873. Seeing no future for himself when the Democrats returned to power, Ruby returned to Louisiana, where he spent his later years as a newspaper editor and an advocate of the Exodus, a movement that advocated the removal of blacks from the South and their resettlement in the Midwest. From youth to his death in 1882, Ruby showed himself to be a principled politician committed to bettering the place of African Americans in white America.

CARL H. MONEYHON is professor emeritus at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. A scholar of Civil War and Reconstruction history, his publications on Texas include *Edmund J. Davis: Civil War General, Republican Leader, Reconstruction Governor*; *Texas after the Civil War: The Struggle of Reconstruction*; and *Republicanism in Reconstruction Texas*. He holds BA and MA degrees from the University of Texas and a PhD from the University of Chicago.



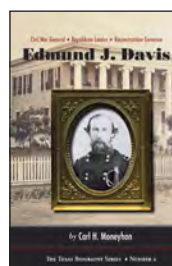
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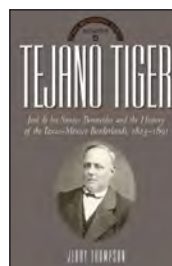
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Biography. African American Studies, Texas.
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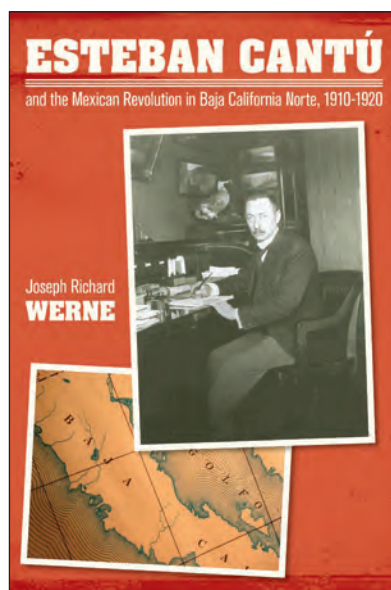
Esteban Cantú and the Mexican Revolution in Baja California Norte, 1910–1920

Joseph Richard Werne

Outfoxing all other military and political personnel in the territory of Baja California Norte, Colonel Esteban Cantú, on becoming governor, astutely played the leaders of the Mexican Revolution one against another. A compelling figure in the Mexican Revolution, he maintained his independence from Mexico City until he was forced from office in August 1920. While Cantú was appointed governor by Venustiano Carranza, Pancho Villa, and Eulalio Gutierrez of the Convention Government, he followed their orders only when it suited him and published the laws of the government in Mexico City to give the appearance that he was loyal to the central power when in fact he was not. He was more concerned with neighboring Sonora and supported every anti-central government movement in that state to secure his own independence.

When he gained power, Cantú faced an indescribable morass of crime and immorality in Tijuana and Mexicali: white slavery and prostitution; opium dens; cocaine, morphine, and heroin dealers; and gambling halls, saloons, and dives of all descriptions. Governor Cantú either licensed many of these or became connected to them in some other way, personally profiting from such activities but also employing much of this revenue to create the territory's first reliable infrastructure. This engaging account reveals the complexity of the Mexican Revolution, with a cast of characters that includes officers and officials of the Porfirian regime, revolutionaries and counterrevolutionaries, US investors, crackpots, German spies, Japanese schemers, Chinese workers, and purveyors of every sort of vice.

JOSEPH RICHARD WERNE is emeritus professor of history at Southeast Missouri State University, where he also served as director of the Latin American studies program. He is author of *The Imaginary Line: A History of the United States and Mexican Boundary Survey, 1848–1857*, published by TCU Press in 2007. He received his BA from Denison University and his PhD from Kent State University.



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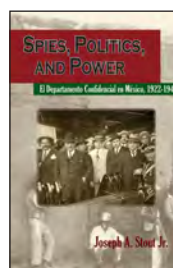
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Mexican American Studies.

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July

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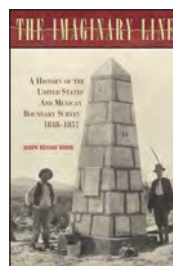
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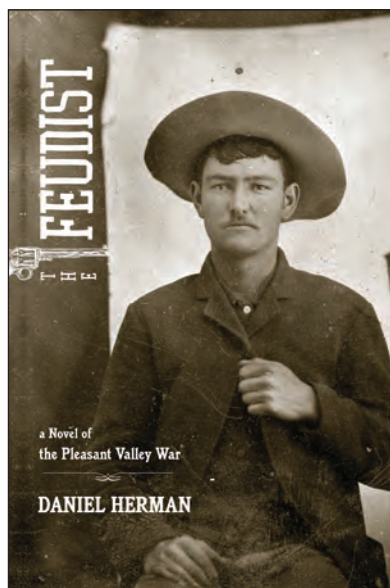
The Feudist

A Novel of the Pleasant Valley War

Daniel Herman

The Feudist: A Novel of the Pleasant Valley War is both a traditional Western—tense, authentic, fast-paced—and an anti-Western that tells the story of what was perhaps the bloodiest range war in US history, Arizona’s 1880s Pleasant Valley War. The narrator—a small-time rancher named Ben Holcomb who reflects back on his adolescent experiences—begins the story as a stockboy in Globe City, Arizona. Bored with his job, he agrees to become an apprentice cowboy. His journey to his employer’s ranch leads him into a smoldering range war. Over the next year, he rides with a charismatic trickster; a Texas “colonel” and his idealist daughter; a polygamous Mormon elder with a teenaged wife; and a winsome, mixed-race cowboy who is deeply embroiled in the feud. Though Ben tries to stay out of the quarreling, he finds himself embroiled as he stumbles through passionate love, devastating loss, and moral uncertainty. Herman’s attention to historical forces, his spare style, his self-deprecating narrator, and his authentic characters give the novel a verisimilitude that transcends the genre Western and far surpasses Zane Grey’s 1922 romance about the Pleasant Valley War, *To the Last Man*.

DANIEL HERMAN is professor of history at Central Washington University. His historical monographs have garnered multiple prizes, including the Charles Redd Center-Phi Alpha Theta Book Award in Western History and the Labriola Center American Indian National Book Award. *The Feudist* is his first essay into fiction. Herman lives in Ellensburg, Washington, with his wife, Margareta, and daughter, Persia.



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6x9. 256 pp.

Western Fiction.

June

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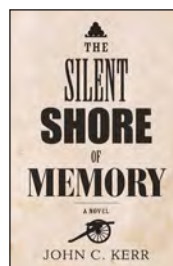
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Memphis Bluff

Gerald Duff

Memphis, the Bluff City, is at the heart of Gerald Duff's hilariously violent story about lies, crimes, and those who must dig down to the ugly truths hiding beneath false claims made by movers, shakers, and criminals high and low. Memphis cops J. W. Ragsdale and Tyrone Walker spend their days and long into their nights peeling back the counterfeit claims of old wealth, gang lords, and the brutal truths of thievery, murder, and deceit. J. W., a one-time cotton farmer, now chops away in the weeds, brambles, and lies of Memphis, high and low. His African American partner, Tyrone Walker, steers a straight path whenever he's able. He believes little of what he sees, and he trusts only part of what he senses. Together in Duff's third book about the partners, J. W. and Tyrone tackle the Ku Klux Klan, crooked aristocrats, black gangs, and the many bluffs, real and imagined, proclaimed in Memphis on the Mississippi. It gets darker each day in that great and gritty town on the river called the Old Man. Ragsdale and Walker are again seeking a beam of light and a glimpse of truth. And they're not bluffing.

GERALD DUFF won the 2012 award for the best book of fiction about Texas, *Blue Sabine*, from the Philosophical Society of Texas; the Cohen Prize for Fiction from *Ploughshares* magazine; the silver medal from the Independent Publishers Association; and a finalist designation for the Western Writers of America's Spur Award for 2015. He is a member of the Texas Institute of Letters and the Texas Literary Hall of Fame.

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6x9. 264 pp.
Fiction.
May



You Can't Build a Company

The Life and Principles of Marlene and Spencer Hays
Dan Williams

Spencer Hays grew up in a small town in a family of very little means to become a business leader and a wealthy philanthropist by way of sheer grit and hard work—a true Horatio Alger story. His success was such that he and his wife Marlene were able to bequeath to the Musée d'Orsay in Paris a major collection of French Impressionist and post-Impressionist art—an act of philanthropy so exceptional that they were given the highest civilian honor that France bestows. Hays's corporate leadership was based upon an extraordinary commitment to his customers and especially to the well-being of his employees in an era when corporations see profits for upper management and stockholders as their chief, if not only, responsibility. Beloved by friends and employees alike for his self-effacement and generosity, Spencer Hays wanted the principles that his corporations operate by to be the primary focus of this book. These principles, which embody commitment and service, undergird the success and growth of his businesses. Spelled out here for the benefit of readers, they are vividly brought to life by the remarkable career of one remarkable man.

DAN WILLIAMS has published eight books, most recently *Past Purgatory, a Distant Paradise* (poems), which won the Philosophical Society of Texas's 2019 prize for best book of poetry, and more than fifty articles and essays. He is the director of TCU Press and the Honors Professor of Humanities in the John V. Roach Honors College at TCU.

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6x9. 240 pp. 40 color, 40 b&w photos.
Biography. Business Practices.
January

Sincerely, Ty Cobb

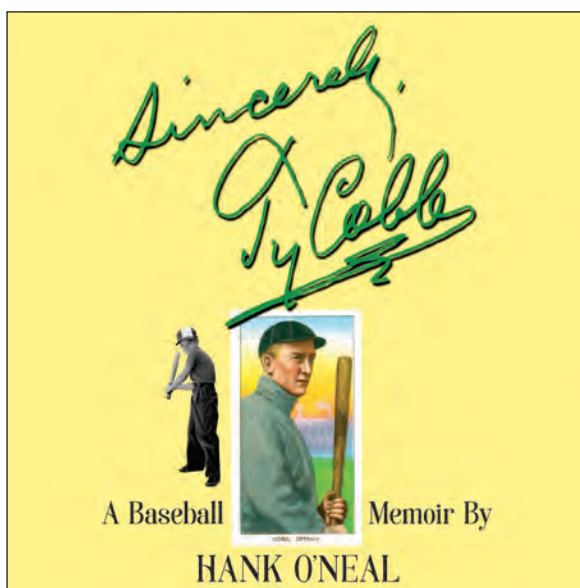
Hank O'Neal

In 1948 Hank O'Neal was eight years old, and his baseball mentors were his grandfather, C. A. Christian, who'd been an exceptional semipro player at the turn of the century, and two of his father's classmates at TCU, Jim Nolan and Jim Busby. His grandfather went on to college and became a pharmacist, but he never forgot his days of glory as a teammate of the soon-to-become-legendary Ty Cobb. After his introduction to these three men, all Hank wanted was to play baseball.

In 1954 his family moved to Syracuse, New York, where Hank hung around McArthur Stadium, the home of the Syracuse Chiefs. One of the players, Ben Zientara, lived two doors away, and not only did Hank pester him and the other players, but he also began writing major league players, both active and retired. One of them, Ty Cobb, became his pen pal in 1955. He'd played with Hank's grandfather in Georgia fifty-five years earlier, and the "nastiest man in baseball" was kind and supportive to his young fan.

Sincerely, Ty Cobb traces ten years of a child's life in baseball, from his first struggles on the sandlot to his final high school game. It is illustrated with period memorabilia and twelve pages of handwritten letters from Ty Cobb, plus others from Hall of Fame players like Eddie Walsh and Frankie Frisch.

HANK O'NEAL's most recent publications include *Paris Portraits* (2016), *A Vision Shared* (2018), and *Preserving Lives* (TCU Press, 2018). He has produced over two hundred LPs and CDs, more than one hundred jazz concerts and festivals, and has been involved in six documentaries directed or executive-produced by Clint Eastwood. He lives in New York City.

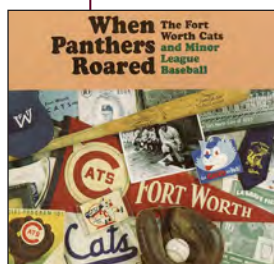


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Memoir.
May

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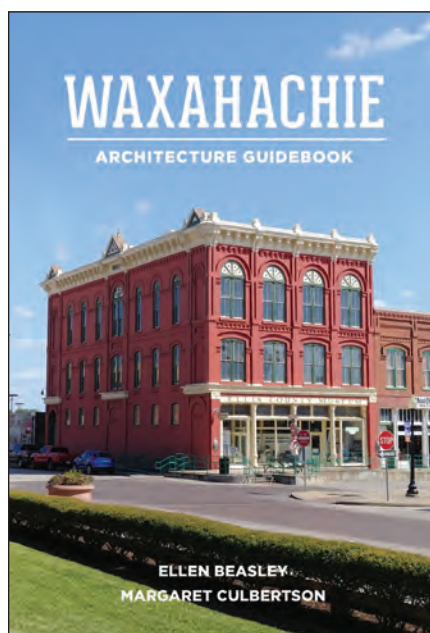
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Waxahachie Architecture Guidebook

Margaret Culbertson and Ellen Beasley

This fully illustrated volume explores the exceptional architectural legacy of Waxahachie, Texas. Beginning with the landmark Ellis County Courthouse designed by James Riely Gordon, the guidebook documents residential, commercial, and institutional buildings—both large and small—as well as the individuals who designed, built, and owned them. Styles, forms, architects, builders, owners, and occupants are identified and described, giving insight not only into the town's architectural riches and building culture, but also into its economic and social history. The authors offer new documentation for many buildings through their use of original sources, including early newspapers and mechanics' liens, and an extensive knowledge of the period design books that were so popular with Waxahachie lumberyards. Concentrating on the downtown and the older neighborhoods, the *Waxahachie Architecture Guidebook* is an invaluable resource for visitors, curious residents, and anyone studying the buildings and architecture of Texas.

MARGARET CULBERTSON is director of the Powell Library, Bayou Bend Collection and Gardens, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, and project director of Bayou Bend's William J. Hill Texas Artisans & Artists Archive. Her most recent book is *Texas Houses Built by the Book: The Use of Published Designs, 1850–1925*. ELLEN BEASLEY is a preservationist and historian whose publications include *The Alleys and Back Buildings of Galveston: An Architectural and Social History*. She is also the coauthor of the *Galveston Architecture Guidebook*.



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August



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