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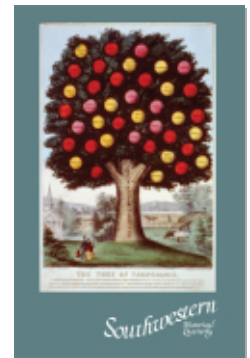
Tejanos in Gray: Civil War Letters of Captains Joseph Rafael de la Garza and Manuel Yturri (review)

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1838 under John Coffee “Jack” Hays. After his military service, he moved to San Augustine where he practiced medicine. Later he also practiced law. In 1844, he won political office and served a term in the Republic House of Representatives. He had the honor of being the man who introduced a resolution to accept the United States’ terms of annexation. In 1845, Ford moved to Austin where with a partner he bought and became editor of the *Austin Texas Democrat*.

When the Mexican-American War (1846–48) broke out, he immediately joined the Texas Rangers and served under Jack Hays again. By 1849 high command promoted him to captain of the Rangers. He served in South Texas from the Nueces River to the Rio Grande. In 1852 South Texas voters sent him to the Texas State Senate. When he moved to Austin, again with a partner he founded a new paper, the *State Times*, which lasted until 1857. In 1858 Ford sought and won a commission to lead a contingent of the Texas State Troops, a command that sent him to South Texas again. He and his men campaigned against Indians, as well as Juan Cortina when he raided north of the Rio Grande. Later, he was elected to the Secession Convention and voted with the majority. Once the Civil War became a reality, Ford volunteered for service by joining the Second Texas Cavalry whose men elected him as its colonel. In May 1865 he gained a type of immortality by fighting and winning the last battle of the Civil War at Palmito Ranch.

After the war, Ford returned to the newspaper business when he moved to Brownsville in 1868. He bought and became editor of the *Brownsville Sentinel*. He continued his interest in politics, and voters made him a delegate to the National Democratic Convention in 1872 and in 1875 to the Texas Constitutional Convention. From 1876 to 1879, he returned to the Texas Senate. In 1879, state leaders appointed him to his last public position, superintendent of the state’s Deaf and Dumb School (later called the Texas School of the Deaf).

In his sunset days, Ford became something of a historian and wrote his memoirs. He became a charter member of the newly founded Texas State Historical Association and supported the new association’s journal. Indeed, he penned one of the first articles to appear in the new journal. He died in San Antonio on November 3, 1897.

In the running theme of the narrative, McCaslin notes several times that both of Ford’s grandfathers fought in the American Revolution and did their part to secure American independence. As a youngster and later as a mature adult, Rip Ford became determined to emulate both of them, with locations like Lexington and Concord replaced by the broad expanse of Texas. McCaslin has produced a meaningful volume and has done an excellent job. And, yes, when I use the words “McCaslin” and “excellent” in the same sentence, I know that I am being redundant.

Oklahoma State University

JAMES SMALLWOOD, EMERITUS

Tejanos in Gray: Civil War Letters of Captains Joseph Rafael de la Garza and Manuel Yturri. Edited with an introduction by Jerry Thompson. Translated by José Roberto Juárez. (College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 2011. Pp. 168. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. ISBN 9781603442435, \$29.95 cloth.)

Thousands of Tejanos served in the Confederate and Texas military forces dur-

ing the Civil War, but few of the letters they wrote to family and friends are readily available to scholars of that period. Jerry Thompson draws upon a lifetime of extensive research to provide this slim volume, which helps to redress that lack of sources. The result is a welcome addition to the primary material on the history of Tejanos and the story of Texas in the Civil War.

There are forty-one letters in this collection, written by two Confederate Tejano captains from San Antonio, Joseph Rafael de la Garza and Manuel Yturri. They were born into prominent families and became brothers-in-law, and both of them were educated outside of Texas, De la Garza at St. Joseph's College in Kentucky and Yturri at St. Joseph's and later the University of Pennsylvania. Both joined the Alamo Rifles of San Antonio in early 1862 when they were in their mid-twenties. De la Garza stayed with the Alamo Rifles when that unit became Company K of the 6th Texas Infantry, and he was killed at Mansfield during the Red River Campaign in April 1864. Yturri enlisted in Company H of the 6th Texas Infantry, then served in the 33rd Texas Cavalry for a year before securing a commission in the 3rd Texas Infantry, with which he served until the end of the war.

The letters begin in April 1862 and, at least for Yturri, continue for three years. Most of them were written in Spanish, but they have been translated here. They primarily provide a touching litany of boredom, loneliness, illness, deprivation, and even desertion, but there are a few exceptions. Some excitement surfaces in those that focus on the Overland Campaign in Louisiana in 1863, there is a sad communication conveying a report of De la Garza's death in combat, and Yturri provides a vivid account of the battle at Jenkins' Ferry and its gory aftermath. Yturri also writes perhaps one of the most moving letters, which describes how a Texas captain who refused to take his troops east of the Mississippi River was tried and executed by a firing squad. But the material has its greatest impact in revealing perspectives on life at home in San Antonio, where the two Tejano officers' families obviously struggled to survive without them. Absent from these documents is any clue about why they enlisted when they did, as conscription loomed on the horizon, though Yturri's disgust with the war by 1865 and his strong desire to be home is quite clear.

There are many names in the text that will be familiar to those who study Tejano history and that of Texas in the Civil War. Thompson provides effective notes, which are drawn from an impressive bibliography and comprise almost a fourth of the book, to explain the cast of characters and illuminate the letters. He also provides wonderful illustrations, many of them published from the collections of the two officers' descendants or taken by Thompson himself. His introduction is somewhat unfocused, but it is gracefully written and provides a sufficient context for Tejano and Civil War scholars alike. Both groups should, and will, embrace this fine little work, and it will be cited in many footnotes.

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RICHARD B. McCASLIN

Brothers to Buffalo Soldiers: Perspectives on the African American Militia and Volunteers, 1865-1917. Edited by Bruce A. Glasrud. (Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 2011. Pp. 256. Notes, bibliography, index. ISBN 9780826219046, \$39.95 cloth.)

Only within the past generation have military historians brought the study