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***My Work among the Florida Seminoles* by James Lafayette Glenn**

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I wrote this. The tragedy is that the uninformed public, seeking books on Spanish Florida, are tempted to buy this press's offerings, the quality of which, at least in Florida history, is very low.

As for Quesada, perhaps he does not need another study at all. From the information given by Miller, he was not an effective example of Spanish administration on the Florida Borderlands.

Jack D. L. Holmes

My Work among the Florida Seminoles. By James Lafayette Glenn. Orlando. 1982. University Presses of Florida. Index. Photographs. Maps. Pp. xiii, 121. \$12.00.

The 1930s was a watershed period in federal Indian policies. John Collier, a well known social reformer, was appointed Commissioner of Indian Affairs with a mandate to draft a New Deal for Indian people. For the first time in over a century, the federal government made a sincere effort to exercise its fiduciary responsibility over Indian resources within a framework designed to enable self-determination and the preservation of tribal cultures. Such reforms were urgently needed throughout Indian country, and especially by the Seminoles in south Florida who had been dislocated and pressed into desperate poverty by the land boom and everglades drainage projects of the preceding decades.

It perhaps comes as no surprise that the hoped-for results of Collier's program failed substantially to materialize. Although the reasons for this failure are complex, part of the problem stemmed from the frequent lack of reciprocal support between the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Washington and the field personnel charged with implementation. James L. Glenn's account of his tenure as agent to the Seminoles between 1931 and 1936 represents an interesting case study of the gap between reforms enacted at the federal level and the intervening political and economic realities that militated against successful outcomes at the community level. This work also represents a useful commentary on the political economy of south Florida during the era and offers particularly valuable information about the Seminoles. As the editor points out, Glenn's description of the Indians' relationship with the larger world around them indicates a much greater interdependence than is conveyed in the conventional image of everglades isolation.

This document, which is presented in the form of a long letter to Glenn's niece in Tampa, was written some ten years after he was involuntarily terminated from the Indian Service. Much of what he says has the sound of a long simmering self-vindication and an effort to document accomplishments that his superiors in Washington failed to appreciate.

Prior to his appointment, Glenn had been a minister of a church in Everglades City. This account, however, reflects more concern with the Seminoles' material deprivation and the daily injustices they were forced to bear than with the condition of their immortal souls. In many ways, the author seems like the ideal sort of civil servant to have acted as a foot soldier in Collier's crusade. Glenn was evidently hardworking, intelligent, and humane – refusing to join his predecessor in the conclusion that the Seminoles' plight was hopeless. He was completely in sympathy with policies of land restoration and economic development. It was under his direction

that the Brighton Reservation and the beginnings of a tribal cattle industry were established. He did not, however, agree with the notion of self-determination, nor with programs designed to preserve traditional culture. It is not clear whether his objections to these aspects of the program reflected an assimilationist philosophy or a belief that Seminole self-government was simply impractical given their objective conditions. He expresses a genuine appreciation for their traditional beliefs and values, but a loathing for the tourist camps which he felt exploited the more exotic aspects of their culture.

Glenn apparently was perceived as a maverick by the Indian Service personnel and, as a hold-over from the Hoover administration, was vulnerable to partisan opposition. At any rate, caught between an uncooperative bureaucracy and relentless pressure from local political and economic forces, he was impeded and eventually stalled in his efforts to lead the Seminoles out of the wilderness. Although there is no indication of it here, it may also have been that the Seminoles were unwilling to be led in the direction that he wanted them to go.

This is a very valuable document from several standpoints. It provides an unusually candid and well-written analysis of a critical transition period in the organization of the Seminole tribe of Florida, and it supplies important background information for anyone wishing to understand the controversy over their current economic development activities in Hollywood and Tampa. The work has been very ably edited by Harry A. Kersey, Jr., whose introduction and extensive footnotes provide much-needed clarification of some of the vagaries in the text.

My major criticisms concern the quality of photo reproductions and the odd-sized sideways design of the book. Glenn included 60 photographs in his original letter, and each is the subject of a specific reference in the text. Although these are quite interesting, even aesthetic, the print quality is terrible. Given their unique role in the book, they deserved more creative darkroom attention than they evidently received. Similarly, more thought should have been given to selecting the shape of the book, because this only fits on a shelf when the spine is tilted upward. These are perhaps trivial objections, and certainly should not deter anyone from reading or buying the book. But, these features seem to reflect an unresolved ambivalence about whether this should be a scholarly book or a coffee table item. It far more suitably belongs in the former category.

Susan Greenbaum

The Billy Bowlegs War, 1855-58: The Final Stand of the Seminoles Against the Whites. By James W. Covington. Chuluota, Florida. 1982. The Mickler House Publishers. Photographs. Pp. 82. Index. Cloth. \$9.95.

Billy Bowlegs made a surprise attack upon First Lieutenant George L. Hartsuff's detachment at five a.m., December 20, 1855. This was the official opening of the Third Seminole War, or the Billy Bowlegs War. Yet Professor Covington believes that the third war was only a continuation of the Second Seminole War fought two decades earlier; that Colonel William J. Worth's General Order, issued on August 14, 1842, signified only the temporary termination of military action against the Seminoles of Florida; and that during the period between Worth's order and