

Martha, felt his affection keenly and strove to be worthy of it—a task he made certain they knew was necessary. Thomas provided well for their education, assuring them of this path to his heart. But as the family was away from Virginia for years on the public's business, the nature of Martha's learning proved ill-suited for a plantation mistress, a role she would learn on the job. She and her sister received better training in the ornamental arts and would have shone in a wealthy urban context. But above all Martha became a "republican daughter," one who understood that her father's duties to the republic were paramount and that her most important role was to support him.

Indeed, the intense link between father and daughter seems to have materially contributed to the dysfunction in Martha's marriage to Thomas Mann Randolph Jr. Even the most secure man would have wondered if he could measure up to the model set by this most illustrious father-in-law. Unfortunately Randolph lacked a strong sense of his own worth, and despite his fathering twelve children with Martha, the two eventually lived apart.

In the end, however, the book intends to be an indirect approach to learning more about Thomas Jefferson than his daughter. Wayson begins with a quotation from Martha's daughter, Ellen Wayles Randolph Coolidge: "[I]n order to understand [Thomas Jefferson], you must understand those by whom he was surrounded" (p. x). In this case, readers see a loving, generous, yet flawed father who attempted to keep his family close emotionally and geographically. Thomas's efforts failed as the children lost Monticello, the home he had created for them, in payment of the many debts he had incurred.

An interesting book, it will appeal more to the academic than the general reader. It can be difficult to follow as the reader learns to track an approach that goes back and forth through time. Wayson also uses jargon to refer to common human tendencies among those living away from home. For example, Wayson insists Thomas and Martha "imagined" a place they called "Monticello" while living in Paris. This usage feels very odd; Monticello really existed, despite the fact that the Jeffersons were not living there at the time and had to use their minds to conjure it. Wayson also calls the family picture that emerged in correspondence a "family-of-letters" (p. 34). It is awkward shorthand. More problematic is what Wayson excludes. There is no mention of the Embargo Act of 1807 and only brief references to Sally Hemings. In this history the first may merit only a mention, but Hemings requires some treatment, if only to explain why she is not a presence. Ultimately, Wayson's relational approach to a giant figure appears useful, although it will not supplant the value of a full biography.

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*Diplomacy in Black and White: John Adams, Toussaint Louverture, and Their Atlantic World Alliance.* By Ronald Angelo Johnson. Race in the Atlantic World, 1700–1900. (Athens, Ga., and London: University of Georgia Press, 2014. Pp. [xviii], 241. Paper, \$24.95, ISBN 978-0-8203-4769-1; cloth, \$49.95, ISBN 978-0-8203-4212-2.)

On the title page of his personal copy of Jean-Louis Dubroca's viciously derogatory *Life of Toussaint Louverture* (London, 1802), John Adams

inscribed the following words: "An infamous Calumny, on a great Hero, a real Patriot, and a good Man" (Adams's inscription is available in the John Adams Library at the Boston Public Library on [archive.org](http://archive.org)). In this very fine monograph, Ronald Angelo Johnson tells the moving and powerful story that lies behind Adams's inscription. There are more general accounts of Haitian-American diplomacy in the Revolutionary and antebellum periods, and several books focus on Thomas Jefferson's predictable withdrawal from and even hostility toward the Adams-Louverture relationship of engagement and mutual support. But until Johnson, no one has thought fit to isolate for detailed study this remarkable story of transracial cooperation and overseas military intervention, a high-water mark of progressive American foreign policy that has not always been matched in the years since.

A former State Department officer, Johnson brings to his considerable skills of historical narrative and interpretation an insider's feel for the ambivalences of American diplomatic power. His compelling thesis is that the Adams-Louverture alliance both derived from and reflected the early American republic's search for a position of commercial and diplomatic authority in an Atlantic world still dominated by Britain, France, and Spain. That search unfolded roughly contemporaneously with Haiti's emergence as the New World's second independent nation. In seeking to vindicate their own nation's honor and status as a new power on the world stage, American commercial, diplomatic, and military agents improvised their way toward practical, effective working relationships with their Saint Dominguan counterparts. For a brief but symbolically powerful period, these relationships subverted the official rules of racial hierarchy and hostility that, elsewhere in the United States and most of the rest of the Atlantic world, prevented transracial alliances from forming. In eloquent, deeply felt language, Johnson repeatedly identifies a politics of respect operating at the vexed intersection of American strategic interests and Louverture's search for a partnership to the north.

Johnson is particularly effective at conveying two closely related dimensions of this theme. First, he shows that a maritime culture of collaboration with Louverture's regime, sometimes operating extralegally (and thus under the radar screen of hostile southern interests), could trump the racial protocol of civilian interactions. Second, Johnson powerfully underscores the role of key personalities on both ends of the U.S.-Saint Domingue relationship. There are wonderfully drawn portraits here not only of Adams and Secretary of State Timothy Pickering, but also of the savvy and indispensable American consul general in Saint Domingue, Edward Stevens. And the American naval officers Silas Talbot and Christopher Raymond Perry make a dramatic appearance as leaders of the pioneering military intervention in 1799 that helped tip the balance of power in southern Saint Domingue toward Louverture and consolidate his drive toward universal emancipation in Hispaniola. Above all, Johnson shows, it was the extraordinary Louverture himself who, time and again, created opportunities for both the Americans and the Saint Dominguans to summon a more hopeful and equal world of transracial solidarity into being, all while keeping his eye adroitly on the threats and opportunities posed by Britain, France, and Spain.

In the end, that imagined world of interracial parity never came about. Johnson rightly insists that New England's long-standing commercial ties with Saint Domingue were not the sole driver of American policy toward that colony under the Adams administration, and he identifies significant Democratic-Republican support for the momentous January 1799 bill authorizing Adams to trade and treat with Louverture (even more so for its reauthorization in 1800). But an alliance built on such foundations was inherently fragile and could not survive the combined juggernaut of Jefferson's election in 1800 and the 1802–1803 Haitian war of independence, whose culmination Louverture tragically did not live to see.

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*Recollections of a Tejano Life: Antonio Menchaca in Texas History.* Edited by Timothy Matovina and Jesús F. de la Teja. With the collaboration of Justin Poché. Jack and Doris Smothers Series in Texas History, Life, and Culture. (Austin: University of Texas Press, 2013. Pp. x, 190. Paper, \$19.95, ISBN 978-1-4773-0217-0; cloth, \$55.00, ISBN 978-0-292-74865-1.)

José Antonio Menchaca (1800–1879), a native of San Antonio, served as an officer in the forces of the Republic of Texas and remained politically active in his hometown after the Civil War. During his lifetime, Menchaca dictated two sets of memoirs that contained compelling firsthand accounts of the Texas War of Independence and its aftermath. The first narrative appeared in print during the early twentieth century, but his second account remained unpublished until its inclusion in this book. Timothy Matovina, Jesús F. de la Teja, and Justin Poché have painstakingly reassembled these documents into an engaging description of nineteenth-century Texas from the perspective of a significant Tejano leader.

The editors faced daunting challenges in this project. As the original document of Menchaca's first narrative is now lost, they drew from two published copies that contain significant textual variances. Menchaca's second memoir survives but has missing passages, and its scribe's biases shaped the development of the manuscript. As a consequence, the editors include extensive footnotes that corroborate Menchaca's accounts with additional sources where omissions, discrepancies, and factual errors appear. At times, the editors also note when major statements have no additional supporting evidence. For instance, Menchaca provided a gripping account of his interview with Antonio López de Santa Anna, which reportedly took place after the Mexican general's capture after the battle of San Jacinto. However, the editors note that "[t]his entire conversation is problematic," as its description of this episode is at odds with other primary sources from this event (p. 83*n*15). Through their thoroughly annotated and meticulous approach, these editors offer a masterful example of the historians' craft to undergraduate readers and provide a valuable primary source to scholars of nineteenth-century Texas history.

A brief biographical survey introduces the memoirs with genealogical research that reveals Menchaca's mixed-race roots and his family's role in the settlement of colonial Texas during the eighteenth century. His early life