

Oklahoma Books

SOLDIER, cowman, banker and benefactor of higher education, George Washington Littlefield was one of the great personalities of the formative years of Texas. The absorbing story of this Mississippi-born southerner who moved to Texas and typified the blend of southern tradition and southwestern enterprise, is told in a new book from the University of Oklahoma Press, *George W. Littlefield, Texan*.

The author is J. Evetts Haley, of Spearman, Texas, rancher and historian of the Southwest. He is author of *The XIT Ranch of Texas* and *Charles Goodnight, Cowman and Plainsman*, both widely recognized as outstanding books of the range country.

The Littlefield book is well illustrated with drawings by Harold D. Bugee, of Clarendon, Texas, whose work on western subjects has appeared previously in books and magazines.

A veteran of the Civil War at 21, with serious wounds and rank of major given him for gallantry in action, Littlefield learned the range cattle trade in Texas and by virtue of a driving ambition and good business judgment he soon began to accumulate a fortune.

Because his ability to buy and sell at the proper time was so good, and because he accumulated money, he was called on for loans and so became a banker as well as cowman.

A deep love for the traditions and heritage of the South led him to take an interest in the University of Texas, particularly in regard to collection of historical materials on the South. He provided funds to start the now-famous Littlefield collection, and from time to time he increased his gifts until he had contributed a total of \$125,000 to the capital fund. He also paid \$225,000 for the Wrenn Library of 6,000 rare and beautiful literary pieces, and gave large amounts for building purposes.

Littlefield felt that the University of Texas "owed its primary allegiance to the soil that supported it—that it should be representative of the history and traditions, the life and attitudes, the ways and customs—in a word, the culture—of its own land," Haley states. And Littlefield gave both time and money in support of this ideal.

Littlefield served on the Board of Regents of the University of Texas and one of the chapters of the book is devoted to the Ferguson-University fight. Littlefield, who became interested in politics because of the influence he might secure in public affairs, helped elect Jim Ferguson to the governorship, but broke with him on

many issues when Ferguson attempted to dictate to the Board of Regents.

A tough, realistic opponent in a business deal or in politics, Littlefield was the kind of character whose life story makes excellent reading.

Added Honor

Praise from Novelist Louis Bromfield for Edward Faulkner's *Plowman's Folly* last month climaxed wide recognition which has been accorded the book since its publication early in the fall by the University of Oklahoma Press.

Mr. Bromfield pays tribute to the book in a review in the December issue of *Reader's Digest*. He gives a personality sketch of the author along with his ideas on farming which, though simple in theory and practice, have been described as nothing short of revolutionary.

Mr. Faulkner advocates abolishing the moldboard plow, which turns the soil under, in favor of a bull-tongue or cultivator-type plow, or disk plow which loosens the soil but does not turn the sod under. He points out that much rich farm land has been dried out and ruined by the old-fashioned plowing method.

"Last summer I received a book which bore the imprint of one of our most modern and progressive university presses," the novelist wrote in his review. "It was called *Plowman's Folly* and was written by Edward J. Faulkner. That night I took it to bed with me. It was three in the morning when I finished it. I went to sleep a convert to Faulkner, resolved from then on as a farmer to use the moldboard plow as little as possible."

Pointing out the need for a change in America's farming methods and for guidance from a book such as this, Mr. Bromfield said, "Sooner or later someone was destined to write such a book as *Plowman's Folly*. For a long time people have been becoming aware of the evil goings-on in the agriculture of this country...."

"Faulkner has created a problem for the manufacturers of agricultural machinery: that of providing an implement to replace the moldboard plow. A number of disk plows and cultivators which do not turn over the soil but simply rip or chop it up have appeared during the past few years, but none of them is entirely effective for preparation of all kinds of soil under all sorts of conditions...."

"The recognition Mr. Faulkner has received is a sign that the revolution in agriculture is being recognized."

Geo. W. Littlefield Texan

by

J. EVETTS HALEY



The life of a fabulous Southwestern—who made a fortune from longhorns during the trail-herd days and whose wide-flung ranches were big business enterprises. A Confederate cavalryman, cowman, and banking tycoon, Littlefield had no small hand in Texas politics and helped make and break the Fergusons. J. Evetts Haley is author of those southwestern classics, "Charles Goodnight, Cowman and Plainsman," and "The XIT Ranch of Texas." Illustrated by Harold D. Bugee. \$3.00

Ziba

by

JAMES PIPES



"To me the 'find' of this season is 'Ziba' by James Pipes. . . . This book is the most remarkable treasury of Negro expression since 'Green Pastures.' . . . Great to read aloud. Discover it for yourselves!"—William Rose Benét in *The Saturday Review of Literature*. (Autographed copies on request). Decorated by Edith Mahier. \$2.50

plowman's folly

by

EDWARD H. FAULKNER

A runaway best-seller of which *The Reader's Digest* says, "Probably no book on an agricultural subject has ever prompted so much discussion in this country." 30,000 copies printed by the University of Oklahoma Press. \$2.00

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