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Impeached: The Removal of Texas Governor James E. Ferguson
ed. by Jessica Brannon-Wranosky and Bruce A. Glasrud
(review)

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Impeached: The Removal of Texas Governor James E. Ferguson. Edited by Jessica Brannon-Wranosky and Bruce A. Glasrud. (College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 2017. Pp. 208. Photographs, bibliography, index.)

Although a major event in early twentieth-century Texas political history, the impeachment of Governor James Ferguson has not received the scholarly coverage it deserves. Among the sporadic treatments by historians, general writers, and the governor's relatives, the most noteworthy has been produced by Lewis L. Gould, who made the Ferguson phenomenon a major theme of *Progressives and Prohibitionists: Texas Democrats in the Wilson Era*. That important work, however, first appeared more than forty years ago. Thus, with the arrival of the Ferguson impeachment's one-hundredth anniversary, a modern update is certainly due, and that task has been largely achieved by the team of scholars assembled by editors Jessica Brannon-Wranosky and Bruce A. Glasrud.

This well-organized work begins with John R. Lundberg's lengthy but essential overview of the impeachment saga. In addition to covering the background of the governor's actions, sketching the motivations of his political opponents, and adequately summarizing the impeachment proceedings, Lundberg also clearly and correctly analyzes the events in terms of Progressive Era politics rather than the traditional emphasis on resistance to Ferguson's supposed anti-higher education agenda. In reality, the state's Democratic Party was divided between a rural conservative element led by Ferguson and an urban progressive reform faction centered at the University of Texas, who rejected the governor's faux populism and eventually capitalized on his unlawful behavior and other lapses in judgment to remove him from office.

The next two essays written by Kay Reed Arnold and Rachel M. Gunter focus on the role played by women's groups in Ferguson's impeachment. Gunter ably documents the well-known and determined efforts of the Texas Equal Suffrage Association to effect the governor's removal, while Arnold's contribution highlights the lesser-known efforts of non-suffragist women, especially those who argued that Ferguson's political attacks on the university were detrimental to war mobilization given the importance of the school's home economics program and other efforts to organize the home front during the First World War. Leah LaGrone Ochoa next chronicles Texas press coverage of the impeachment proceedings. Those interested in poring over primary sources from the period to document the governor's combative attitude toward the media, the response to Ferguson by the Texas press barons, and how the major newspapers covered these events will benefit from the well-researched information that she provides. Rounding out the collection are chapters by Mark Stanley dealing with the long-term impact of the impeachment on Texas Democratic Party politics, Jessica Brannon-Wranosky's look at the impeachment

through the lens of historical memory, the inclusion of three documents related to the period with analysis by noted historians, and a selected bibliography compiled by the editors.

I highly recommend this volume, not only for those interested in Texas political history, but for anyone interested in contemplating historical parallels to our current times. Many themes regarding Ferguson's personality and governing style resonate strongly today, succinctly summarized in the editors' introduction: "The problem was that what got Ferguson elected as governor was his platform of contempt of the existing power structure, but he did not leave that disdain at the door when he became governor. He was not a political team player; he did not know how to be, and he was not interested in learning. One person can get elected to office, but it takes a team of leaders with knowledge, experience, networks, and financial stability to effectively hold that office. None of these factors can replace any of the others and still turn out an effective administration. Ferguson's demagoguery and headline-grabbing antics kept the public entertained and returning for more, but they were a political nightmare" (2).

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So Long for Now: A Sailor's Letters from the USS Franklin. By Jerry L. Rogers. (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2017. Pp. 432. Illustrations, maps, notes, bibliography, index.)

A new book that centers on the correspondence of World War II servicemen appears every few years. These works are always welcome in the field, as each addition expands the availability of primary sources, but each is executed with varying degrees of success. In *So Long for Now: A Sailor's Letters from the USS Franklin*, Jerry L. Rogers produces both a rich historical resource and a touching legacy to his late brother, who perished in service on the *USS Franklin* in 1945.

The framework of the text is primarily a series of correspondence between U.S. Navy sailor Elden Rogers, his mother, Grace, and his sweetheart, Virginia. These letters will prove to be interesting and valuable to historians who focus on World War II and will undoubtedly be used as primary sources in other works. The narratives included before each letter provide some insight into the persons and events being discussed and help the reader understand the full context of the messages. Additionally, Jerry Rogers's thoroughly researched book is a pleasure to read. Rogers invites readers not only to become intimately acquainted with his family and his hometown of Vega, Texas. This work also highlights several aspects of war that are often omitted in works of this sort, including local pressures to serve in the military, the value of fraternity in war, and the significance of leadership. Likewise, home front issues of transportation, work,