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Review of Tum Your Eyes Toward Texas: Pioneers Sam and Mary Maverick

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Turn Your Eyes Toward Texas: Pioneers Sam and Mary Maverick. By Paula Mitchell Marks. College Station: Texas A & M University Press, 1989. Preface, maps, illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. xvi + 323 pp. \$27.50.

Paula Mitchell Marks's *Turn Your Eyes Toward Texas* is a dual biography of Sam and Mary Maverick, Texas pioneers who were eyewitnesses to the Texas Revolution and the exciting years that followed in its immediate aftermath. Based primarily on the personal diaries and papers of the Mavericks, Marks's work virtually personalizes the Revolution, beginning with Sam Maverick's arrival in San Antonio prior to its 1835 siege and the March, 1836 Battle of the Alamo. Even though he was a newcomer to Texas, Maverick played an important role in the San Antonio skirmishes and was elected by the Alamo garrison to be its delegate to the Constitutional Convention, a fact that saved him from certain death there.

Marks is perhaps the first writer to put the Mavericks in proper perspective and context. While the couple's papers have been a rich resource for Texas historians, few have ever concentrated on the Mavericks themselves. Particularly refreshing is the life of Mary Maverick, who spent much time alone or with her children while her husband dealt extensively in land speculation and politics. Mary's perspective is that of frontier San Antonio. By the time of her death in 1898, she had recorded her memoirs and left an indelible influence upon the city, which continues to this day through her influential family.

To a certain extent, Marks's work helps to diffuse some of the myths surrounding Sam Maverick. For example, he was not the great cattle baron he was widely believed to have been. He was, however, an ambitious, aggressive businessman who had the vision that Texas had a future and who at the same time had a remarkable sense of duty toward his nation and state. Marks does a superb job in placing the Mavericks appropriately in the Texas story. Her

scholarship and writing are first class. This is a book that is equally enjoyable for both the amateur and the professional, must reading for every fan of Texas history.

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