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Twenty Years among the Mexicans: A Narrative of Missionary Labor

by Melinda Rankin Edited, with an introduction, by Miguel Ángel González Quiroga and Timothy Bowman

Melinda Rankin was born in 1811 and raised in New England. She found her calling as a missionary teacher, decided to take the Protestant religion to the people of Mexico, conquered nearly overwhelming obstacles and, after accomplishing her goal, returned to the United States to spend her last years in relative peace.

“González and Bowman have done an excellent job of editing Melinda Rankin’s classic memoir, Twenty Years among the Mexicans. Their introduction made me eager to meet this fascinating Methodist missionary on her own terms and in her own words as she ventured into South Texas and northeastern Mexico at a time when Protestants were decidedly not welcome.”

~~ R. Douglas Brackenridge, Professor Emeritus, Department of Religion, Trinity University

Miguel Ángel González Quiroga, is a professor of history at the Colegio de Historia, Facultad de Filosofía y Letras, Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León in Mexico. His current research is a 19th century study on conflict, cooperation and coexistence between Anglos and Mexicans in the Rio Grande region.

Timothy Bowman is a Ph.D. candidate in American History at Southern Methodist University. His current research is a twentieth-century study of the citrus industry in Texas’ Lower Rio Grande Valley and the segregation of Anglos, Mexicans, and Mexican Americans in the region.

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