FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Reader,

I spent three weeks in Athens, Greece, this past summer with Mercer University Study Abroad. We visited the sights of ancient Greece like the Parthenon on the Acropolis, Plato’s Academy, and many places that are unique and foundational to Western history. We also visit the Agora—the marketplace of ancient Athens. This is where Democracy was born—in the marketplace of goods and ideas and the practice of negotiation—and where Socrates would visit Simon the cobbler’s house.

And on a tiny little hill in the Agora are the nearly unchanged remains of an ancient temple to Hephaestus, the god who made thunderbolts for Zeus. Hephaestus was the patron god of those who made things with their hands. He is the god of craftsmanship. That the only temple overlooking the Agora was dedicated to the god of craftsmanship is significant: this is a place where things got made, from ideas to shoes.

Many people are gifted in one kind of craftsmanship and we hold them—artists, painters, sculptors, musicians, all others—in high esteem.

And then there are some who are gifted in many ways. They have talent and ability in many things.

Jimmy Carter is one such human. We call such a man a Renaissance man, or the everyman. As the thirty-ninth president of our nation, his skills as a speaker and negotiator were clear early on in his life. After he left the presidency, his skill as a writer became obvious with his book Keeping Faith and with every book since. His talents were next revealed in his “Carter Center: Waging Peace. Fighting Disease. Building Hope.” He is also, as seen in this new book, a craftsman of furniture. In each of these enterprises, the one thing in common is that he is a Craftsman of word in speech and ink, democracy, faith, of negotiation, of canvas, of wood.

Of course, it is not to Hephaestus that Carter owes his gifts. Rather, he gives credit to a master craftsman, a carpenter, who also is the craftsman of the soul. Just ask President Carter, or visit his Sunday school class.

Marc Jolley
Finding pleasure in the art of woodworking and furniture making

When Jimmy Carter was a boy he helped break the land with a mule-drawing plow. It was slow and tedious work. But, “looking back at the end of a day and seeing how much cropland had been prepared for planting,” he says, “I enjoyed a sense of accomplishment and self-satisfaction, knowing that I had done all that was humanly possible, even as a young boy, and had left behind me the visible proof of my work.”

He continues: “I still have similar emotions while working in my woodshop. Periods of drudgery that come with the repetitive use of chisel, drawknife, spokeshave, plane, rasp, scraper, sandpaper, or paint brush fade into relative insignificance when I can examine the result of my labor. The excitement of an original design, the meticulous detail of precise measurements, the characteristics of the chosen wood, the heft and beauty of the hand tools—some of them ancient in design—are all positive aspects of crafting a piece of furniture. I like to see what I have done, what I have made. The pleasure does not fade as the years go by; in fact, with age my diminished physical strength has eliminated some of the formerly competing hobbies and made woodworking even more precious to me.”

The basic purpose of this book is to show the reader that even those with limited talent can develop adequate skills to produce worthwhile things. The entire process, from learning to creating, can be enjoyable. There is no limit to the skill that woodworkers can seek, and a few may uncover a level of artistry that is professionally beneficial.

FROM THE AUTHOR

“When we prepared to leave Washington in January 1981, my White House staff and cabinet members took up a collection to buy me a going-away gift. My friends then gave the collected funds to Sears, Roebuck and Co., with directions to supply me with whatever tools and equipment I needed for a completely furnished woodworking shop in what had been our garage. This has turned out to be one of the best gifts of my life, and I have devoted a good portion of my spare time to developing my skills and designing and building furniture.”

—Jimmy Carter
Roland McElroy was a key participant in Georgia State Representative Sam Nunn’s first election to the US Senate (1972). Their working relationship continued in Washington DC where McElroy served as press secretary, and later, chief of staff during his fifteen years with Nunn. McElroy holds degrees in Economics and Journalism from the University of Georgia. He resides in Falls Church, Virginia.

One man’s passion for public service becomes a primer for successive generations

When Georgia’s US Senator Richard B. Russell died January 21, 1971, the scramble began immediately to find a worthy successor. A number of political luminaries thought themselves imminently qualified, among them three former governors, a former congressman, and the state’s current treasurer. All would be competing against the appointed senator, David Gambrell in the Democratic primary. The winner would face US Representative Fletcher Thompson in the general election. Thompson promised to tie any Democrat to one of the most unpopular political figures in America, George McGovern. The 1972 race definitely was not for the timid or faint hearted.

Outside of Houston County, few people knew Sam Nunn’s name. His closest friends thought he was crazy to consider mounting a candidacy for the US Senate, and told him so. His revered grand-uncle Carl Vinson, who served fifty years in Congress, was among them. Nunn, after all, was only in his second two-year term as a state representative and had just turned thirty-three years of age.

On the day Nunn announced his intention to enter the Senate race, McElroy sat down with him to discuss next steps. Nunn pulled out a small gray file box, and shook it. “These are the people I know in the state of Georgia—all of them.” The primary was nineteen weeks away.

This book chronicles the journey McElroy took with Sam Nunn as he presented a message of common sense conservatism to the voters of Georgia in 1972. Nunn’s principled approach to making government work through cooperation and compromise, and his demonstrated mastery of complex issues, placed him among a rare few considered every four years for the highest office in the land.
Chronicling the journey of ninety-year-old Sam Massell, each chapter is a book unto itself on the separate parts of his life. He has excelled in four careers, including twenty years in commercial real estate, twenty-two years in elected offices, thirteen years in the tourism industry, and is now in his thirtieth year of association management.

In 1969, Sam Massell was elected the first Jewish mayor of Atlanta, Georgia. Since leaving office he has been inducted into numerous “Halls of Fame” for service in fields of business, government, civil rights, hospitality, and influence.

When a young boy, and self-described “dead-end kid,” Massell searched for identity between the mischief of his only two friends—one who ended up in juvenile detention—and operating his own oversized Coca-Cola stand. Later, he pioneered professionally as a specialist in building medical offices, struggled between pride and prejudice for being Jewish, and as a liberal Democrat, organized and managed a nonprofit civic group among one hundred (mostly) conservative Republican business leaders.

Politically, Massell changed Atlanta’s City elections to nonpartisan, created Atlanta’s Urban Design Commission, allowed Muhammad Ali to fight when fifty other cities would not, established Metro Atlanta’s mass transit system (MARTA), appointed the first woman to the City Council, named the first blacks to City department head status, and developed the Omni, Atlanta’s first enclosed arena. Most importantly, his legacy will be his peaceful guidance of Atlanta (then population 500,000) through its transformation from an all-white power structure to a black city government.

This is a textbook case of behind-the-scenes fact and frivolity of the sins of a workaholic and the success of an idea man, a leader, and the subject of a well-written history.

Charles McNair is an international business communication consultant, award-winning journalist, cultural critic, columnist, and author of three novels. His leadership communication firm, MAS, guides organizations, including top Fortune firms, in creating compelling narratives that define purpose and foster loyalty. He lives and works in Bogotá, Colombia.

Sam Massell is founding president and current manager of the Buckhead Coalition, was an award-winning REALTOR®, and served as mayor of Atlanta, Georgia, from 1970–1974. A life-long resident of Atlanta, Massell was president of the 15,000-member National League of Cities, and served on the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games Board.

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Celebrating the life and career of a true Renaissance man
In an academic career spanning three decades and two continents, Christopher Blake has served as both faculty and administrator in secondary and post-secondary institutions. An Oxford graduate, he holds a PhD from the University of London in Education and Religious Studies. Blake currently serves as president of Middle Georgia State University and is an advisory board member for the Georgia World War I Centennial Commission.

The First World War, or Great War as it became known, was ravaging the human family one century ago, changing forever the nature of military combat and restructuring the twentieth century in a way that was unimaginable before its course. With more than 35 million casualties, the Great War ranks among the deadliest conflicts in all history.

While the Great War was hoped to be the War to End All Wars, it instead launched a series of geo-political struggles that defined the future century, and in the shadow of which we still live today. By the end of the War all the major combatants—including the United States—were engulfed in its flames and hostage to its fortunes.

But the war was also very personal, shaping the lives of those who went to war, their loved ones, their families, and their future. That story of family is rarely examined in terms of the impact of the Great War.

In this book, several family members, British and American, are the context for an understanding of how the War shaped our lives both in the past, and going forward. In the stories of individual combatants, and their family relationships, lie the clues to understanding who we are, where we came from, and where we might choose to go.

Although the Great War is lost to living memory, its history lives on in the families whose grandparents, parents, spouses, and children engaged in the most titanic struggle in human history at that time.
What does it take for a regular guy to climb some of the highest mountains in the world? *Five Big Mountains* takes you there, instantly placing the reader and the author on a steep glacier on Pico de Orizaba with equipment trouble and the tough decision any high altitude climber inevitably faces—should he turn back or keep going to the summit? The central theme of the book is that with proper preparation, careful planning, persistent training, and the best guides, even an amateur with little mountaineering experience can climb and reach the summits of some of the most famous mountains in the world, though there are risks involved that need to be minimized.

Written in the first person, *Five Big Mountains* takes the reader into the mind of a regular guy trying to reach the summit of four of the famous Seven Summits, as well as his first high-altitude climb of a steep, glaciated Mexican volcano. The book tells what climbing is really like, the struggles and the triumphs, the emotions and the dangers, moment by moment.

The reader travels to Russia, Africa, Antarctica, South America, and Mexico, and along the way discovers the local flavor of each exotic or not so exotic venue. The narrative provides the nitty-gritty of the author’s daily challenges on the mountains.

David Schaeffer is a trial attorney at the David Schaeffer Law Firm, LLC, and a mediator with Miles Mediation in Atlanta, Georgia. He received the 2015 Charles Watkins Award for his distinctive and sustained service to the Atlanta Bar Association. Schaeffer holds a JD from the University of Virginia School of Law. He is currently working on a second book covering five additional mountain climbs and treks.
Fred W. Sauceman is a roaming journalist, broadcaster, filmmaker, author, and professor now living in Johnson City, Tennessee. He is a prolific chronicler of the foodways of Appalachia and the South. The Proffitts of Ridgewood is his fifth book published by Mercer University Press.

Fresh hams cook slowly for eight hours over hickory wood as smoke drifts through Bullock’s Hollow in Northeast Tennessee. It’s a smell both ancient and alluring. The technique is as old as cooking itself. Gas and electricity play no part. Wood, fire, and smoke are the elements. Pressures to modernize are constant, but labor-intensive tradition prevails at Ridgewood Barbecue near Bluff City. The restaurant has been located at the same spot since 1948, and it has been owned and operated by the Proffitt family all that time.

The Proffitts of Ridgewood: An Appalachian Family’s Life in Barbecue, by Fred W. Sauceman, tells a story of persistence, respect for tradition, and loyalty to the land. The enterprising Grace Proffitt opened a beer joint in that once lonely hollow, but four years later, the county went dry, forcing Grace and her husband Jim to seek out another means to raise their two little boys, Larry and Terry. Grace and Jim chose barbecue. They designed their own pits. And they created a sauce that only two people know how to make today.

Now in its third generation of family ownership, Ridgewood is a barbecue restaurant run by a pharmacist and his daughter, a registered nurse. Despite its secluded location, the parking lot is constantly full. Diners from all over the world seek out hickory-smoked ham, tomato-based sauce, blue cheese dressing, and swigs of sweet tea.

This book tells the story of those remarkable products and the hard-working Appalachian family who created them.

“Take a trip to the epicenter of Appalachian foodways”
—Chris Lilly, Pitmaster & Partner, Big Bob Gibson Bar-B-Q

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Cook & Tell
Recipes and Stories from Southern Kitchens
edited by Johnathon Scott Barrett
foreword by Mary Kay Andrews

Johnathon Scott Barrett takes you on yet another delicious sojourn in his latest work, Cook & Tell: Recipes and Stories from Southern Kitchens, a moveable feast across Dixie showcasing the incredible food created in the homes of the South and the resulting tales that accompany those heartwarming dishes.

Stops along the way include such food-rich cities as Savannah and Nashville, as well as the small hamlets of Millingport, North Carolina, and Nanafalia, Alabama, where farm-to-table food still has a prominent spot on the dining table. And in this warm and engaging anthology, Barrett includes not only his own entertaining stories and meaningful recipes but also those of friends met along the way. Some accounts come from family and hometown cooks, while others are from award-winning chefs and authors.

Cook & Tell, a beautifully written collection of remembrances preserving the South’s rich intersection of foodways and oral histories, gives inspiration for readers to take pen to paper and record for themselves the special times and dishes that have shaped their own lives and those of their loved ones.


“A high-calorie romp through the kitchen of memory. I ate it up. You will, too. —Harrison Scott Key, author of The World’s Largest Man

Johnathon Scott Barrett is a seventh-generation Georgian who has a deep appreciation for the history, foodways, and culture of the South. A nonprofit executive and CPA, Barrett is also a talented cook and host in culinary rich Savannah where he enjoys good bourbon and fine food—and when he gets the chance, fishing. He is a contributing editor to Shrimp, Collards, & Grits. Learn more at www.johnathonscottbarrett.com.

T I T L E S  O F  I N T E R E S T

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SEPT EMBER 2017 | F OOD  M E M I O R / E S S A Y S
6 x 9 | 288 pp. | Hardback $28.00 | 978-0-88146-622-5 | H938 | Recipes | Photographs
Michael McFee has published fifteen books—eleven volumes of poetry, most recently *We Were Once Here* (Carnegie Mellon, 2017); one collection of prose, *The Napkin Manuscripts* (Tennessee, 2006); and several anthologies, including *The Language They Speak Is Things to Eat* (UNC Press, 1994). He received the James Still Award for Writing about the Appalachian South from the Fellowship of Southern Writers. A native of Asheville, North Carolina, he is professor of English in the Creative Writing Program at UNC-Chapel Hill.

“*A lively examination of a writer’s life—beautiful, funny, heartbreaking, with an abiding sense of wonder.*” —Alan Shapiro

**Michael McFee’s new book takes its title from the unofficial motto of the US Postal Service: “Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds.”** All of us have appointed rounds in our lives—essential things we are given to do and must try to complete, whatever the inner or outer weather, whenever the time of day or night, however we may approach those duties.

This lively and wide-ranging collection of fifty essays—many of them pointed, page or so, in the playful manner of Robert Francis and *The Satirical Rogue on Poetry*, and others rolling on for much longer—addresses McFee’s appointed rounds, subjects he has been thinking and caring about for decades: books, his native Western North Carolina mountains, writing, reading, editing, teaching, and, as the title suggests, the daily mail. It includes pieces on “My Inner Hillbilly” and Appalachia, on “Authors’ Photos” and “Blurbs” and other parts of the physical book, on “My New Yorker” and contemporary literary culture, on “Poets as Novelists” and “Marginalia” and being a writer, on a teacher’s “Gradebook” and “The Blackboard,” and on authorial matters like “Voice,” “Audience,” and “Immortality.”

The prose explorations in *Appointed Rounds*, like McFee’s poems, are meant as appreciations, paying close attention to things that have mattered to him (and many others), savoring their details while exploring their larger design, and saving his versions of them even as they may change or fade or disappear altogether.
Christian Bend isn’t the kind of place where one expects to find the sorts of secrets the widow Burdy Luttrell has been harboring.

Tucked in the hills of East Tennessee, Christian Bend is a place of piercing beauty, where the rivers and love run constant. A community of people who care for each other, the land, the music, and the stories that bind them. It’s called Christian Bend because so many people who settled the area shared the same last name, Christian. It’s a name they all tried to live up to.

Even so, Burdy never could bring herself to tell Rain Hurd the truth about his father. She’d always meant to, but put it off until that day she was nearly killed in the shooting at Bean Station.

As soon as he heard about the shooting, Rain left his job in Rhode Island and flew to Burdy’s bedside at that Knoxville hospital. That’s when Burdy told him about the letters.

Rain didn’t believe her at first but once he found the letters, Rain was faced with a trauma of his own: What had prompted his father to abandon his family? And would Rain ever be able to forgive him the death of his mother? Would anyone at Christian Bend? Or would the community, which had long proudly regarded Zebulon Hurd as their own war hero, now abandon the aging veteran to the grief that overwhelmed him?

“A contemporary story with a vintage tone, the novel is elevated by its evident love of place and of the simple life. Focusing on the significance of relationships, it resonates with truth and clarity.” —Felicia Seeburger, Foreword Reviews (University Press 2017)
Catharine Savage Brosman, who lives in Houston, is professor emerita of French at Tulane University and honorary research professor at the University of Sheffield (England). She is well known in the Republic of Letters in America as an essayist, a scholar, and, foremost, a poet. Her work has been published and praised widely here and in France and England.

The eleventh collection by the author Alex Pepple places among “the most accomplished and fully-rounded poets writing today”

Catharine Savage Brosman’s singular and authoritative voice, familiar to poetry readers in the South since the late 1960s, is heard again as she brings to scenes and topics, both new and familiar, her broad range of craftsmanship and styles, using, as one critic wrote, “metaphors brilliantly fitted in detail to the moods and workings of the human heart and mind.” Her poetic practice shows how closely the art of verse can, and must, be connected to human experience, the very feel of which comes through in the poems here.

The book features travel poems from four continents, rhymed lyrics on small or expansive topics, narratives in blank verse (concerning El Cid, Swift, Dickens, Charles Dodgson, Saint-Exupéry, and two women writers), five translations from Baudelaire (among the least-known poems), and satires concerning painting and publishing. Recurring themes include “great age” and death, friendship, piano playing, flowers and gardens, and the desert. Whatever the setting and topic—exotic cities, a Rocky Mountain cabin, Breton dolmens, dinner by the water, a nasty fall, a flowering vine—readers will recognize their truth, feeling both little flickers of sensation and the deep currents of love and suffering.

The collection closes with a series of eight rhymed poems inspired by illuminations from The Hours of Catherine of Cleves, presenting saints and martyrs, with their iconographic paraphernalia. Retrospectively, this final series sheds on the preceding poems its thematic lighting, combining tones of sorrow, sacrifice, charity, and joy. The ensemble creates what David R. Slavitt identified in an earlier volume by Brosman as “the morality of vision.”

OCTOBER 2017 | POETRY
6 x 9 | 102 pp. | Paperback, $17.00t | 978-0-88146-630-0 | P551
In the story of the earth, geologists tell us that around 12,000 years ago the planet shifted from the Pleistocene to the Holocene. There probably were poets to sing about that change, but of what they sang, we have no records. Even earlier, paintings on cave walls point toward an artistic response from our upstart species. These early artists painted the Pleistocene’s last great ice age herds thundering past.

Now John Lane’s traveling geologist sings a dawning epoch’s blues. The Anthropocene is upon us, and his poems show how humans believe they have become “the planet’s boss, the big chief, the emperor of air, diesel fuel/bow thrusters, and tax shelters…”

And if you don’t believe the times are changing, consider these poems—full of dead-on-the-road groundhogs and radial tires, carbon-spewing adventure travel, masturbating parrots, and mounds and mounds of garbage—as twenty-first-century objective correlatives John Keats might recognize.

But all is not collapse out there. The puny human voice William Faulkner praised in his Nobel acceptance speech sings amidst the 6th Great Extinction. These lyrics and narratives deposit the pleasures of contemporary poetry in the carbon record.

“To give our best attention to the natural world might be said to be the duty of any thoughtful citizen of the Anthropocene. But to give it with verve, humor, and compassion—to celebrate its small survivals and grieve its losses with large-hearted wisdom—takes a poet with the capacious vision of John Lane. Anthropocene Blues is a book to be thankful for.”

—Don McKay, author of Angular Unconformity: Collected Poems

John Lane is professor of English and Environmental Studies at Wofford College and director of the Goodall Environmental Studies Center. He is the author of a dozen books of poetry and prose, with his latest, Coyote Settles the South, selected as a finalist for the John Burroughs Medal in Natural History Writing. A member of the South Carolina Academy of Authors, Lane is one of the co-founders of Spartanburg’s Hub City Writers Project.
William Rawlings is a sixth-generation resident of Washington County, Georgia. Author of eight books, including three works of nonfiction published by Mercer University Press. Rawlings attended Emory and Johns Hopkins Universities, and holds graduate degrees from Tulane and Mercer Universities. Learn more at www.williamrawlings.com.

The Second Coming of the Invisible Empire
The Ku Klux Klan of the 1920s
William Rawlings

Eminently readable history of the second Ku Klux Klan—briefly one of America’s most powerful social and political organizations

Fifty years after the end of the Civil War, William Joseph Simmons, a failed Methodist minister, formed a fraternal order that he called The Knights of the Ku Klux Klan. Organized primarily as a money-making scheme, it shared little but its name with the Ku Klux Klan of the Reconstruction Era. With its avowed creed of “One Hundred Percent Americanism,” support of Protestant Christian values, white supremacy, and the rejection of all things foreign, this new Klan became, for a brief period of time in the mid-1920s, one of America’s most powerful social and political organizations.

Shamelessly adopting the symbols of the hooded robe and burning cross from the movie, The Birth of a Nation, and exploiting the sense that America was headed in the wrong direction, the order spread rapidly to every state in the nation. While often using intimidation and violence against its foes, the Klan was responsible for the election of supportive politicians at all levels of government.

Following a disastrous attempt to influence the presidential election of 1924, and with increasing public awareness of the Klan’s corrupt and violent nature, the order faltered, becoming a mere wisp of its former self by 1930.

This original and meticulously researched history of America’s second Ku Klux Klan presents many new and fascinating insights into this unique and important episode in American History.

TITLES OF INTEREST

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November 2017 | History
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The name of Union general William T. Sherman is still reviled in Atlanta, 150 years after his soldiers devastated this important Georgia city. Thirty-seven days of artillery bombardment, July-August 1864, wrecked countless downtown buildings and killed perhaps a score of civilians. Longtime Atlantan Stephen Davis describes Sherman’s shelling in detail unmatched in the Civil War literature.

After capturing Atlanta, Federal troops occupied the city for two and a half months during September-November, further tearing down more buildings to make their huts and fortifications. Before leading his army across Georgia to the sea, Sherman ordered the leveling of much of downtown. His soldiers took up torches on their own and set fires throughout town.

The “Burning of Atlanta” is thus only part of the city’s wartime travail. Davis tells the story with a thoroughness and understanding that makes What the Yankees Did to Us the definitive work on the subject.

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And Other Stories from Georgia’s Historical Past
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Essays on the intriguing and often convoluted history of the South

The Strange Journey of the Confederate Constitution is a collection of seventeen articles and essays on topics in Georgia and Southern history. Individual chapters are arranged by era and cover subjects ranging from The Great Yazoo Fraud of the 1790s, to Jefferson Davis and the Confederate Treasure of the 1860s, to the Reign of Terror visited by the Ku Klux Klan in Macon of the 1920s.

While academic, the book’s varying topics are aimed at readers with a general interest in the intriguing and often convoluted history of the South. Some articles focus on events, others on people (e.g. Gutzon Borglum or Eli Whitney), and still others on more controversial topics, such as the place of The Birth of a Nation and Gone With the Wind in modern society.

The author’s writing style is one that promotes relaxed recreational reading, treating each topic as an unfolding story as the chapter progresses. As a bonus to those interested in research and writing about historical subjects, the Appendix contains advice in the form of “A Short Practical Guide to Historical Research for Writers.”

William Rawlings is a sixth-generation resident of Washington County, Georgia. Author of eight books, this is the third work of nonfiction published by Mercer University Press. Rawlings attended Emory and Johns Hopkins Universities, and holds graduate degrees from Tulane and Mercer Universities. Learn more at www.williamrawlings.com.

CHAPTERS

The (Re)Invention of the Cotton Gin

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The Pine Barrens Speculation

The Saga of the Lost Confederate Treasure

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Reign of Terror: The Ku Klux Klan of the 1920s in Macon, Georgia

The Jaybird Wray Episode
M. Todd Cathey has been a student of the American Civil War for over thirty years. His primary area of interest is the common soldier in the Western Theater. Cathey holds several advanced degrees including two earned doctorates. Cathey is executive pastor of Arrow Heights Baptist Church in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, and is co-author of Forward My Brave Boys!: A History of the 11th Tennessee Infantry CSA, 1861–1865.

**Presbyterian minister who recruited troops for the Confederacy and became chaplain for the 49th Tennessee Infantry**

Born 9 June 1838, James H. McNeilly grew up near Charlotte in Dickson County, Tennessee. At age thirteen, McNeilly was sworn in as deputy circuit court clerk of Dickson County. Raised in a devout Presbyterian home, he received his undergraduate degree from Jackson College in Columbia, Tennessee. Just as the Civil War broke out, he had earned his Doctor of Divinity from Danville Theological Seminary at Danville, Kentucky.

As McNeilly returned home to Dickson County, in the summer of 1861, he preached on Sunday and recruited troops for the Confederacy during the week. In October 1861, McNeilly traveled to nearby Fort Donelson, where he offered his services to the South. In September 1862, he was detailed as chaplain for the 49th Tennessee Infantry and went into battle with “the boys.”

From Port Hudson to the campaign for Vicksburg, to Jackson, to the slopes of Kennesaw Mountain, to Ezra Church, to Franklin where the regiment lost more than 73% casualties including his brother Thomas, to Nashville and beyond McNeilly was with the men every step of the way, enduring what they endured.

This book shows the connections between personal faith, the everyday life of the chaplain, and his deep relationship with the men to whom he ministered on a daily basis as he shared privation, hardship, humor, and combat as one of them.
In September 1864, at a gathering in Macon, Georgia, Confederate President Jefferson Davis admitted that two-thirds of his troops were absent, most without leave. Some had opposed secession to begin with. Others came to see the conflict as a “rich man’s war.” But it was hardship and hunger among their families that drew most soldiers back home.

For more than a century and a half, historians have often ignored the Confederacy’s home front difficulties, which had so much to do with desertion and defeat. Anyone with even a passing knowledge of the Civil War knows that Confederate armies were outnumbered two to one. In a presumptive way, the manpower disparity is usually attributed to the North’s larger population. Lost in that simplistic view is the impact that desertion had on sapping the Confederacy’s fighting strength. And this is but one of the many critical issues historians too often brush aside.

Why were Southerners divided on secession? How were the foundations for those divisions laid in the Antebellum South? Why did Confederate leaders impose a draft? Why did so many Southerners call the conflict a rich man’s war? What impact did resistance by enslaved people have on the war effort? What was the impact of women’s attitudes and actions? Why was the Confederacy unable to feed itself adequately? And, finally, what impact did all this have on the war’s course and outcome? Only by looking behind the battle lines, as Georgia’s Civil War does, can we find answers to these frequently overlooked questions.

David Williams is professor of History at Valdosta State University, where for thirty years he has taught Old South, Civil War, and Georgia History. He is author of eleven books on the Civil War era and Southern history, including the widely acclaimed A People’s History of the Civil War.
Frederick L. Downing is professor of Philosophy and Religious Studies and department head at Valdosta State University. His previous books, To See the Promised Land: The Faith Pilgrimage of Martin Luther King, Jr., received national attention and Elie Wiesel: A Religious Biography won the Georgia Author of the Year Award.

Clarence Jordan
A Radical Pilgrimage in Scorn of the Consequences
Frederick L. Downing
foreword by Walter Brueggemann

A religious biography investigating the legacy and legend of Clarence Jordan and his radical pilgrimage of faith

Using a corpus of family letters, his FBI file, and a series of interviews, Frederick L. Downing portrays Clarence Jordan as a pioneer (on the frontier of the New South), a prophet, and a moral exemplar. As a New Testament Greek scholar and founder of Koinonia Farm, there were two distinctive poles to the prophetic nature of Jordan’s life and work: one which sought to critique and dismantle the status quo, and the other which attempted to evoke a new way of being.

Jordan’s critique of church and society was profound and increasingly radical. In this biography Downing shows that Jordan was, like Martin Luther King, Jr. and Mohandas K. Gandhi, a homo religious—a religious innovator of the highest order who had universalizing vision. As a religious genius, Jordan was a cultural worker whose own search for faithfulness and human wholeness was interwoven with the quest to redeem his region. In life, Jordan attempted to be in dialogue with his culture, where he sought the liberation of the oppressed and the oppressor; and called for a new view of humanity and an alternative portrayal of God and the Bible. In death, his legacy is that of a “dangerous memory” subversive to the human tendency toward greed and the reckless disregard of the poor, and provides a strong iconoclastic dimension to collective memory.

The impact of Clarence Jordan on his culture was so strong that forty-five years after his death his legend as a “modern saint” lingers in American society still seeking to demythologize the shared values and consensus, and continues to call for alternative ways of being in a world where racism, militarism, and materialism continue to exist.
For the first time in more than three and a half centuries, the carefully preserved records of the First Baptist Church of Boston, Massachusetts, have been transcribed and are now published. They reveal the extraordinary faith of the original founders, the suffering they endured, and the commitment of the nine original members and their successors to persevere through the storm and finally to be recognized as one of the leading churches in Boston and ultimately the nation.

The records span the time from the founding in 1665 until the death of Samuel Stillman in 1807. They reflect the extraordinary times in which the church grew and flourished, including a vivid description of the day in March, 1679, when the little congregation discovered that the Puritan authorities had sent a marshal to nail shut the doors of their place of worship.

With a historical introduction by editor Thomas R. McKibbens, the volume includes an appendix with “A Brief Narrative” by First Baptist pastor John Russell, a pamphlet first published in London in 1680.

An extraordinary history of one of the leading churches in Boston

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Bracy V. Hill II is senior lecturer in History at Baylor University where he teaches courses in British and American History, especially the history of hunting. He holds a PhD in Religion (Baylor), an MA in Theology (University of Notre Dame) and a BA in History and Classical Antiquities (Missouri State University).

John B. White is the Harold and Dottie Riley Professor in Practical Theology and faculty director of the Sport Chaplaincy/Ministry Program and the Youth Spirituality and Sports Institute (funded by Lilly Endowment, Inc.) at George W. Truett Theological Seminary of Baylor University. He holds a PhD in Theological Ethics (University of Edinburgh), an MA in the Philosophy of Religion (Trinity International University), an MD in Systematic Theology (Trinity Evangelical Divinity School) and a BS in Business (Indiana University.)
Bryan L. Wagoner (PhD, Harvard University) is assistant professor of Religious Studies and Philosophy, and director of the Morrison-Novakovic Center for Faith and Public Policy at Davis & Elkins College. He has served as president of the North American Paul Tillich Society.

**Prophetic Interruptions**

Critical Theory, Emancipation, and Religion in Paul Tillich, Theodor Adorno, and Max Horkheimer (1929–1944)

* Bryan L. Wagoner

**Historic connections, commonalities, and parallels between teacher, colleagues, and friends**

*Prophetic Interruptions* initially draws numerous, yet previously unknown, connections between Paul Tillich, Theodor Adorno, and Max Horkheimer during their shared years in Frankfurt and New York, focusing particularly on the years 1929–1944. While Critical Theory was being formulated, Tillich, the teacher and colleague of Adorno and Horkheimer, respectively, was working on his own religious social(ist) theory. Moving beyond this historical background, Wagoner shows how these personal connections evolved and were mutually engaging.

Instead of pursuing discernible mutual influence among Tillich, Adorno, and Horkheimer, the book instead demonstrates that their ideas were forged in the crucible of friendship and common purpose, toward the common end of emancipation. The collective ‘prophetic interruptions’ among the three thinkers have a common goal of naming and remediating injustices, and interrupting social forms that inhibit individual and collective agency. To that end, parallels are traced along four lines: critical rationality, theories of human nature (particularly vis-à-vis Nazism), metaphysics, and religion. These striking commonalities (coupled with potentially insurmountable differences, such as ontology) reveal historical connections between progressive religious thought and allegedly secular critical theory.

The book suggests room for further conversation between progressive religion and critical theory rooted in Tillich’s early ‘religious socialism,’ read here as a type of critical social theory, anticipating that of Adorno and Horkheimer. The appendix includes the first translation of an important letter from Adorno to Tillich, written in 1944.
Established amid adversity in 1817, the First Baptist Church of Augusta, Georgia, ranks among the most important congregations in Southern history for having birthed the Southern Baptist Convention in 1845. A Journey of Faith and Community offers new insight into the surprising role First Baptist Church of Augusta played in the formation of the South’s now-largest denomination. Yet in a manner unusual for Baptist churches of the Deep South and in part reflective of the ethos of Augusta, the First Baptist congregation maintained significant relationships with Northern (American) Baptists into the twentieth century. Exemplifying the progressively conservative nature and rapid growth of early to mid-twentieth century urban Southern Baptist life, the church in the decades following dissented from a theologically-calcifying SBC by ordaining women to ministry, welcoming holistic ministry and missions, and transitioning into primarily a Cooperative Baptist Fellowship congregation.

A Journey of Faith and Community is the story of how an outcast and disadvantaged people of faith grew into a large and influential Southern congregation while striving to remain true, amid changing cultural currents, to a Christ-centric heritage of freedom of conscience, religious liberty for all, and church state separation. At the same time this volume is a study of the close relationship between church and city, the historical intertwining of religion and the South, and congregational responses to modern demographics and religious challenges in America. From beginning to end, the story of the First Baptist Church of Augusta, Georgia, is a drama filled with surprises, plot twists, and concurrent narratives local, regional, and national.

Bruce T. Gourley, director of the Truth & Justice Project (truthandjusticeproject.org), is an American historian (PhD Auburn, 2008). He is the author of seven previous books, a contributing writer to Nurturing Faith Journal, and a photographer.
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