## From the Director

Dear Reader,

It is the yard I did not know I needed. My wife and I bought a townhome late in 2020 and moved in on 7 December. The yard was smaller than itsy-bitsy at about forty square feet. The HOA fees would cover its maintenance. But our townhome is an end-unit. So, in addition to my itty-bitty front lawn and a slightly larger back yard, I discovered a few months after we moved in that the end-unit also came with one and six-tenths acre of land (not covered by HOA dues).

In the Spring and Summer 2021 I witnessed one of nature’s miracles. A nest of red-shouldered hawks (mother, father, and four young) entertained me for months as the parents fed their hungry young. When the fledglings began to fly, one used to fly down and sit on my deck railing.

Since moving in, we have cut down dead trees, planted new trees, installed stone steps on the embankment, added native plants and flowers, dug 145 holes for daffodils and anemones, and more. And, for the first time in eleven years I have (re)established a birding area with feeders, houses, and a bird bath. Down on the lower ground in the midst of the trees I have just hung a sign “Do Not Feed Bears.” That is always good advice although we have yet to see any around. But we do have deer and other quadrupeds.

Now, I sit at a table on my deck under an umbrella with my bird guides, my binoculars (thank you, Drew), and have resurrected my nature journal. Expectedly, I always have a book or two on the table. (If you need a good book, there are plenty in this catalog.)

Each day when I go home I spend time by entering what Wendell Berry calls “the peace of wild things.” Thoreau says it is where the “marriage of the soul with nature” takes place.

The boundary of my little Eden is marked by a small body of water called Sabbath Creek—there along the edge of the yard I didn’t know I needed.

“Live in each season as it passes; breathe the air, drink the drink, taste the fruit, and resign yourself to the influence of the earth.”

(Thoreau)

Marc Jolley
28 April 2022

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On the Cover: 
Black Bear in Snow - iStock
Piano Days is the story of three boys growing up in the late 1950s and early 1960s in a small town doing the things young boys do; playing softball for the local church team, discovering girls, going to the record hop at the National Guard Armory on Saturday nights, and learning to drive while learning a little bit about life along the way.

The townspeople impact the boys in various ways during their childhood and influence who they become as young adults. Toby, Billy, The Twins, Lannie Mae, Sue Jane, the two Tinas, Admiral Dressell, the teachers, the merchants, are there through first kisses, Friday night football games, the county fair, school pranks, high school graduation, and beyond. Readers will be taken back to a time in history they may never have experienced themselves but everyone seems to think they remember.

The nameless, narrator is the catalyst among this group of friends. He is the voice of reason, judgment, and insight, and at the same time, the voice full of questions, anxiety, and sensitivity. From him we hear how hard first loves die and how easily new adventures arise to keep the summers alive for teenage boys; how the new school year stays interesting in friendly battle with the teachers and the principal; and how touching the simple, sweet memory of the annual Christmas parade down Main Street becomes in all its glory of color and sound.

The boys learn the truth about race and religion. They experience the boyish excitement of a gypsy fortune teller and the responsibility of keeping a secret. They learn to dance and date and how to stay friends even through difficult times. They grow from kids on bicycles to young men knee-deep in life, with problems of their own but with enough time to come home for one another.

Don Reid, lead singer for The Statler Brothers, is a three-time Grammy Award-winner with twenty-one gold and platinum albums. He is a member of the Country Music and Gospel Music Halls of Fame. As a songwriter, Reid holds twenty-one BMI (Broadcast Music Inc.) awards. Also a television series writer, this is his eleventh book published since his retirement from the music industry. Reid lives in his hometown of Staunton, Virginia. Learn more about him at www.donreid.net.

Also available in e-book format

September 2022
Fiction

A story of three boys growing up together once upon a beautiful time

Piano Days is the story of three boys growing up in the late 1950s and early 1960s in a small town doing the things young boys do; playing softball for the local church team, discovering girls, going to the record hop at the National Guard Armory on Saturday nights, and learning to drive while learning a little bit about life along the way.

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John Pruitt began his journalism career in 1964 as a television reporter-cameraman and eventually rose to top anchor at WSB-TV in Atlanta, Georgia. For a half-century he covered the civil rights movement, Georgia politics, and the major news figures of the day. His reporting has been honored with multiple awards including induction into the Atlanta Press Club and Georgia Association of Broadcasters Halls of Fame.

Tell It True
A Novel
John Pruitt
afterword by Andrew J. Young

Also available in e-book format

October 2022
Fiction

A shotgun killing on a lonely road in 1964 Georgia entangles lawmen, journalists, politicians, and civil rights leaders

AN AFRICAN AMERICAN SERVICEMAN IS GUNNED DOWN ON A RURAL GEORGIA road in July 1964. This shocking murder ensnares a wide range of characters including the journalists who cover it, the lawmen who must solve it, the civil rights leaders who capitalize upon it, the politicians who exploit it, and the Atlanta magnate who fears its impact on the New South image he desperately wants to protect.

TV news cameraman Gil Matthews and AP reporter Mindy Williams team up to follow the twists and turns of the murder investigation as rural, state, and federal lawmen clash, a civil rights leader fends off a black power challenger, and voters take sides in a governor’s race pitting virulent racist Roscoe Pike against moderate underdog Harrison Parker. Tell It True focuses on the challenges faced by journalists as they covered a societal revolution and brought the dramatic and sometimes violent scenes to television screens around the world night after night.

Tell It True takes us to a time when the future of the South hung in the balance. Readers will no doubt recognize that many of those same troubles are still with us today.

Veteran journalist John Pruitt bases the story on his experiences over fifty years as a television news reporter and anchor in Atlanta, Georgia. “There were many momentous stories I covered during my career,” says Pruitt, “but none equaled the magnitude of the struggles for racial equality in the South.”
Sudden Death
A Novel
Carolyn Newton Curry

Also available in e-book format

August 2022
Fiction

A stunning debut novel of love, sports, and obsession—this one is not to be missed!” —Cassandra King Conroy, author of Tell Me a Story

Sudden Death is a murder mystery set in the world of football. More than a whodunit, the novel spans roughly thirty years from 1966 to 1997 in the life of one couple, who grew up half the world apart. Kendall Harris, a brilliant law student from Georgia, and Duke Astin, a star quarterback from Hawaii, meet at UCLA, fall in love, and marry soon after graduation. Kendall practices law and Duke plays for a decade in the NFL, then becomes a college coach. Juggling two careers and moving from state to state puts pressure on their relationship. But through the joys and stresses of life, they stay loyal to one another.

Things take a troubling turn when Coach Astin is hired by a football powerhouse in the South. Immediately, an influential group unhappy Duke was hired begins to undermine everything he tries to accomplish. The coach and his wife both receive death threats as they work to keep focus on their careers and activities in the community. But when the murder occurs, the story becomes a search for joy and goodness in life—and ultimately the triumph of the human spirit over unspeakable odds.

Written by a woman who has spent her entire life married to a football player and coach, Sudden Death also explores serious themes of sports gambling, alcoholism, and spousal abuse within the varied cast of characters.

Carolyn Newton Curry is an award-winning author, historian, and founder of the nonprofit Women Alone Together®. She is the author of Suffer and Grow Strong: The Life of Ella Gertrude Clanton Thomas 1834–1907 which won Curry a Georgia Author of the Year Award from the Georgia Writers Association. The biography was named One of the Books All Georgians Should Read by the Georgia Center for the Book. Learn more about her at www.carolyncurry.com.
Gregory Ariail, a native of Buford, Georgia, earned graduate degrees from Oxford University, the University of Michigan, and the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, where he currently teaches. In 2019 he thru-hiked the Appalachian Trail. *The Gospel of Rot* is his first book. Learn more about him at www.gregoryariail.com.

“An uncommonly rare and gorgeous work of art—you’ll be carried into the very air...” —Reginald McKnight, author of *He Sleeps*

**At the age of seventy-one, the recluse Amelia finally leaves her home in the North Carolina mountains to find the world grown strange and almost deserted. In her quest to unravel the mysteries of this apocalyptic landscape, she encounters a neighbor turned into an apple tree, children trapped in mica, and her doppelgänger. Between these events, she reflects on the recent death of her immigrant father and the disastrous love affair with a woman that sent her into seclusion for half a century.**

Eventually, Amelia meets up with the time-stranded and dying Sir Walter Scott, who becomes an unwilling companion. Together they navigate the dystopic local town and the living, breathing shadow of a mountain, searching for answers. At the novel’s end, Amelia grows to understand the origin of these mysteries when she meets a famous mother, who is nothing like the Gospels imagined her.

*The Gospel of Rot* is a creative intervention into the Appalachian imaginary, steeped in the Southern gothic. It explores lesser-known, idiosyncratic, and historically taboo subjects: Biblical apocrypha, heterodoxy, mysticism, queerness, Cherokee lore, and the weird and the fantastic. It strives to upend and complicate any static conception of the Appalachian experience.

“I do not know from what seed Gregory Ariail grew his brilliant imagination, but if I could, I would eat from its fruit and then ask for more. Written in a mixture of murmur and prayer, dust and dream, *The Gospel of Rot* is an essential field guide for the ghosts of Appalachia.” —Sabrina Orah Mark, author of *Wild Milk*
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Ann Hite is an award-winning Southern writer and admits to being a storyteller from birth. Her *Ghost on Black Mountain* won Georgia Author of the Year and was shortlisted for the Townsend Prize in 2012. Her novel *Sleeping Above Chaos* was Georgia Author of the Year 2017 Finalist. *Roll the Stone Away* became Georgia Author of the Year 2021 Honorable Mention in the memoir category. Learn more about her at annhiteauthor.com.

*Ann Hite* takes her readers back to Black Mountain with this haunted short story collection. An array of new characters on the mountain experience ghostly encounters. The collection took inspiration from her beloved readers, who provided writing prompts.

“Wrinkle in the Air” features Black Mountain’s Polly Murphy, a young Cherokee woman, who sees her future in the well’s water. Readers encounter relatives of Polly Murphy as the stories move through time.

“The Root Cellar” introduces Polly’s great grandson, who tends to be a little too frugal with his money until a tornado and Polly’s spirit pays the mountain a visit.

“In “The Beginning, the Middle, and the End”, readers meet Gifted Lark on an excessively frigid January day. This story moves back and forth between 1942 and 1986 telling Gifted and her grandmother Anna’s story. This telling introduces spirits that intervene in the spookiest of ways.

“The Ghost Dog” brings a young widow, who is a photographer, and her thirteen-year-old son to the foot of Black Mountain to live in a one-hundred-fifty-year-old house. Spirits from the past, inhabitants of the house, come into play. This tale is really two: one told in the present and one in 1940. How can two mothers’ paths converge with decades separating them?

“Take Me Home” features a young girl whisked away from Black Mountain to stay with her grandmother in a house with the infamous Georgia Central State Hospital almost in its backyard. One can only imagine what happens.

**“Compelling stories in sepia-toned watercolor—a flawlessly executed short story collection.” —Robert Gwaltney, author of The Cicada Tree**

**Ann Hite takes her readers back to Black Mountain with this haunted short story collection.** An array of new characters on the mountain experience ghostly encounters. The collection took inspiration from her beloved readers, who provided writing prompts.

“Wrinkle in the Air” features Black Mountain’s Polly Murphy, a young Cherokee woman, who sees her future in the well’s water. Readers encounter relatives of Polly Murphy as the stories move through time.

“The Root Cellar” introduces Polly’s great grandson, who tends to be a little too frugal with his money until a tornado and Polly’s spirit pays the mountain a visit.

In “The Beginning, the Middle, and the End”, readers meet Gifted Lark on an excessively frigid January day. This story moves back and forth between 1942 and 1986 telling Gifted and her grandmother Anna’s story. This telling introduces spirits that intervene in the spookiest of ways.

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**September 2022**

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**SEPTEMBER 2022**

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5.75 x 8.75 | 256 pp. | Paperback, $20.00t | 978-0-88146-852-6 | P647
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Jack B. Bedell is professor of English and coordinator of Creative Writing at Southeastern Louisiana University where he also serves as editor for Louisiana Literature and director of the Louisiana Literature Press. His previous collections include No Brother, This Storm and Color All Maps New. Bedell served as Louisiana Poet Laureate from 2017–2019. Learn more about him at www.jackbbedell.com.

The poems in Against the Woods’ Dark Trunks stare deep into the shadows of Jack Bedell’s native South Louisiana swamp to find ghosts, monsters, death, and flood waters. These poems also look hard enough to find cypress trees reaching up for whatever sunlight is left in the sky, and they see the promise of new growth along the water’s edge.

Every folktale and campfire fright here has a family story, the sparkling magic of a daughter’s dreams, open fields, and jazz melodies to tilt these poems’ scales toward hope. Even in the darkest of memories, the most broken of hearts, and the longest of long days, there is grace to be found. Line by line, these poems dig for it.

“Bedell’s poems capture in shimmering, startling images the beauty on which we feast.” — Jason Myers, editor of EcoTheo Review

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“Opulent in its attentions, tender in its explorations, this is a book that insists on being haunted by incongruencies, awe-limned humilities, the life which exists outside our hierarchical strivings. I read Jack Bedell to feel intimately inhabited by our humanity.”

— Alina Stefanescu, author of Ribald and poetry editor of Pidgeonholes

“Reading Against the Woods’ Dark Trunks feels like sitting in on a jam session with jazz greats. The first poems are quiet—but the poems that follow quickly add more layers and surprises. Yet these surprises, like any good improvisation, connect and return masterfully to the foundational music of this collection.”

— Katie Manning, author of Tasty Other and editor-in-chief of Whale Road Review
Where You Come from Is Gone
Poems
Annie Woodford

October 2022
Poetry

“This poet strikes the match and lights the way—a testament to what poetry can be...” —Maurice Manning, author of Railsplitter

Where You Come from Is Gone examines the economic and racial violence of rural America, where whiteness is a fraught and often dysfunctional identity. It is a poetic attempt at a “blues line” or a bluegrass “breakdown” to embody a lush, dangerous, and often damaged American landscape as well as the resilience of the human spirit in the face of blunt labor and white supremacy.

In the spirit of Hart Crane’s “My Grandmother’s Love Letters,” these poems attempt “to carry back the music to its source” by presenting a lyric line that is both ragged and fluid, both colloquial and avant-garde, shaped by the displaced cadences of the Appalachian diaspora of mill workers and the folkways of Southside, Virginia. Woodford’s perspective is as a poet who came of age at the end of a dying economy. She shares the economic precarity experienced by her community college students, writing poems meant to honor how people make beauty despite that precarity and perhaps because of it.

“Where You Come from Is Gone is a collection that interrogates the nuance of what ‘home’ actually means. Set in the deep South, Woodford captains a journey toward a place of great comfort, pastoral beauty, and familiarity while confronting the historical violence of both race and class. In this work, the poems lift above the page and gently question the ways in which love coupled with disgrace create the tapestry that is, at once, our families, our memories, our lives.” —Airea D. Matthews, assistant professor of Creative Writing at Bryn Mawr College, Philadelphia’s Poet Laureate for 2022–2023, and author of Simulacra

Annie Woodford is the author of Bootleg (Groundhog Poetry Press), a runner-up for the 2020 Weatherford Award for Appalachian poetry. A 2017 winner of the Graybeal-Gowen Prize for Virginia Writers, she is originally from Bassett, Virginia, and studied poetry at Hollins University. She now lives in Deep Gap, North Carolina. Learn more about her at www.anniewoodfordpoet.com.

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OCTOBER 2022 | POETRY
6 x 9 | 102 pp. | Paperback, $17.00 | 978-0-88146-854-0 | P648
Thorpe Moeckel is director of the Jackson Center for Creative Writing at Hollins University. He is author of eight books, including True as True Can Be: A Novel and Down by the Eno, Down by the Haw: A Wonder Almanac. The recipient of many awards and fellowships for his writing, Moeckel lives around Roanoke, where he loves to explore the good woods, waterways, and ridges of Virginia and West Virginia. Learn more about him at www.thorpemoeckel.com.

According to Sand
Poems
Thorpe Moeckel

**An aching, wryly joyous collection that embodies the erosive and porous qualities of sand**

While ranging from creekbanks to hummocks, from barrier islands to ridges and hollers (from the Kansas River to West Penobscot Bay, to the Edisto, to various tributaries of the New and the James, the Neuse and the Savannah), the poems in According to Sand exhume often lost and surprising senses of the world and of words. They track, these creaturely poems, the abundant and the minimal, singing (in praise and loss) the uncanniness of existence.

Into the waters and the lives there, this collection goes: the ghost crabs, fungi, heron crap, shifts of light, of history, family, time, a doll’s head on a riverbank, deadfall, leaves, weeds; yes, lots of plants, some in blossom, many edible.

There are lyric sequences. There are the strange ekphrastics of “Thaw” and “Figure Drawn on the Ground as the Bull Moose Urinates Upon Waking.” There are riddles (can you hear, maybe even name, what from the other-than-human-world is speaking?). Also historical and botanical persona narratives, rimas dissolutas, and other echoes among them.

According to Sand is an aching, wryly joyous collection that embodies the erosive and porous qualities of sand and invites us to recognize how we might remain among the remains, settling, shifting, filtering, and surviving.

“I have been an admirer of Thorpe Moeckel’s poems for many years, searching them out as one looks for morels or thimbleberries in the woods, but here, in the brilliant According to Sand, is a book to subsist on. Line by supremely original line, it illuminates—and is illuminated by—‘the fleeting infinities’ of the natural world, of which we are a minuscule (see: sand grain) but luminous part. Moeckel is an utterly necessary poet at the top of his form, as fully manifested as a trillium in full bloom.”

—Chris Dombrowski, author of The River You Touch

OCTOBER 2022 | POETRY
6 x 9 | 66 pp. | Paperback, $17.00t | 978-0-88146-857-1 | P651
Acclaimed novelist and memoirist David Armand’s first full-length collection of poetry, *The Evangelist*, contains poems that are at once deceptively simple, clear, and colloquial, yet dense with meaning and universal significance. Drawing upon everyday incidents, Armand fashions poems of great lyrical beauty and potent symbolism that remind his readers of the importance of memory and of a shared language.

But these poems are also a series of emotional meditations on fatherhood, growing up poor, and the legacies we leave behind for our families. Deftly using his own experiences, then casting them out into the world so that they become a part of the universal exploration of life and all its intricacies, Armand paints an honest and devastating portrait of what it means to be a father, a husband, and a son.

The collection concludes with a series of poetic responses to some of the folk art and traditions of his native South, where he reimagines the remarkable photography of Birney Imes, as well as providing lamentations on the humble beginnings and tragic life of Elvis Presley—a poet and an evangelist in his own right.

“This is a beautiful collection. Armand is an excellent poet, one whose voice will sustain.” —William Wright, author of *Grass Chapels*

David Armand was born and raised in Louisiana. From 2017–2019, he served as writer-in-residence at Southeastern Louisiana University, where he is currently assistant professor of Creative Writing. An award-winning author, Armand has published four novels, two collections of poetry, a memoir, and a collection of essays. Learn more about him at www.davidarmandauthor.com.

“Armand offers the reader great poems. There’s not much more you could ask a poem to do, not much more a poet could deliver, than what Armand gives us here.” —Jack B. Bedell, Poet Laureate of Louisiana, 2017–2019

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A native of Augusta, Georgia, Willie Perkins received a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from the University of Georgia and a commercial banking certificate from the American Institute of Banking. Tour manager for The Allman Brothers Band from 1970–1976, he also served as personal manager for The Gregg Allman Band, Sea Level, and others. Author of No Saints, No Saviors and coauthor of The Allman Brothers Band Classic Memorabilia 1969–1976, Perkins is the owner-founder of Atlas Records and lives in Macon, Georgia.

On the road with The Allman Brothers Band from 1970 to 1976

While working as an auditor and fraud investigator for a large Atlanta bank, Willie Perkins was introduced to a fledgling Allman Brothers Band by a mutual friend. A year later the band hired him as their tour manager. Diary of a Rock and Roll Tour Manager: 2,190 Days and Nights with the South’s Premier Rock Band chronicles the triumphs and tragedies of the day-to-day touring of The Allman Brothers Band from 1970 to 1976, detailing their rise from obscurity to the absolute pinnacle of rock superstardom. Perkins shepherded the band from their lowly beginnings in smoke-filled bars to six figure payoffs before hundreds of thousands of fans in outdoor venues. He was there for the tragic, untimely accidental deaths of both Duane Allman and Berry Oakley, the ugliness of drug and alcohol abuse, and the love for the music and true brother and sisterhood among band, crew, management, and family members.

Part logistical coordinator, diplomat, babysitter, psychologist, accountant, and task master, the work of a tour manager is never done. Without the skills and perseverance of a competent tour manager, even the most talented of bands cannot ever be truly successful on the road.

Here, Perkins writes in detail about the efforts involved in the touring and recording career of The Allman Brothers Band in their early and most productive years. He introduces the reader to some of the colorful promoters who produced the concerts and the interesting historical venues where they performed, many of which no longer exist.
PAPER, SCISSORS, ROCK-N-ROLL  
Ringo, Duane, & Me  
Bill Thames

SEPTEMBER 2022  
Memoir

The coming-of-age memoir of a young drummer in the 1960s music scene of Daytona Beach, Florida

PAPER, SCISSORS, ROCK-N-ROLL IS DEEPLY STEEPED IN SOUTHERN MUSIC, but scarcely nudges the genre of Southern Rock. This memoir encompasses a period from 1964 through November of 1969, before The Allman Brothers Band skyrocketed into nationwide prominence, when author Bill Thames was a budding teenage musician in Daytona Beach, Florida.

Each chapter is based on never-before-heard stories of Duane and Gregg Allman, plus Ringo, the influential manager of The Martinque club, as well as others. Coming-of-age in the mid-60s when Daytona Beach was the neon center of the east coast of Central Florida, there was a commonality of musical excellence there, born of strong competitiveness, imitation, and emulation. Musicians as bright and different as the topmost two rows of the large crayon box populated Daytona Beach’s stages. A person could easily stroll through town and hear five incredible up-and-coming bands in as many hours.

Thames’s teenage glory years serve up countless personal stories told from a point-blank perspective, as well as hours of personal stage time with Duane and Gregg as the brothers honed their craft. These compelling stories will transport both younger and older readers back to those tumultuous mid-to-late-60s, and delves deeply into the primal days of segregation, integration, and the racial divide that sadly continues in our country today.

“Bill Thames takes you back to when everything was a youthful adventure and there was music to be made. This is a story only he could tell and I’m very glad he did.” — Anathalee G. Sandlin, co-owner of Duck Tape Recording Studio

Bill Thames is a freelance writer and photographer who grew up attending schools worldwide. In 1962 his family settled in Ormond Beach, Florida, just minutes from Daytona Beach, the epicenter of a burgeoning Central Florida music scene. A retired jeweler, Thames continues to call Ormond Beach his home.

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“I can’t wait to season my holiday gatherings with this book in hand!” — Nancie McDermott, author of Southern Cakes

Johnathon Scott Barrett, who author Janis Owens refers to as “a Prince of a host” takes you on another Southern food journey within the pages of his newest book. Following his culinary memoir, Rise & Shine! and the subsequent recipe-filled anthology, Cook & Tell, Barrett presents the convivial and delicious Cook & Celebrate: A Collection of Southern Holiday & Party Culinary Traditions.

Barrett takes readers from the Commonwealth of Virginia, down to the Carolina and Georgia Lowcountry, over to Mobile Bay, and on jaunts in between to showcase the favorite dishes (and the stories behind them) Southerners use to fete the holidays, and one another.

Memories abound with Hoppin’ John and collards at New Year’s, fried chicken and potato salad on Independence Day, sweet, cloud-like coconut cakes at Easter, and the veritable Tom Turkey and cornbread dressing which crown dining tables at Thanksgiving and Christmas. Barrett shares these recipes, along with 100+ more, while introducing in each chapter friends and loved ones along the way.

And besides their enthusiasm for the holidays, Southerners—with their ingrained sense of graciousness—are also known for toasting life and one another with a variety of appetizing affairs. Barrett relates herein with a sampling of delightful soirees and dinners, some as casual as a fish-fry to others with four courses and your grandmother’s silver and china.

Cook & Celebrate is a wonderful, delectable, and nostalgic read that will invoke warm, festive memories and inspire you to celebrate life in the kitchen.

Johnathon Scott Barrett is a seventh-generation Georgian, and grew up amongst a family that placed high value on fresh, farm-to-table food. He held onto those roots and became a renowned cook and host in his home state. A nonprofit executive, he is also an avid reader, fisherman, and gardener. Learn more about him at www.johnathonbarrett.com.
William Rawlings was born, raised, and lives in Sandersville, Georgia, home to his family for more than two centuries. He was educated at Emory, Tulane, and Johns Hopkins Universities. A prolific writer of “Southern stories,” The Columbus Stocking Strangler is his twelfth book and sixth work of nonfiction. Learn more about him at www.williamrawlings.com.

A detailed account of the serial killer who terrorized Columbus, Georgia—including the crimes and the murderer’s arrest and trial

DURING AN EIGHT-MONTH PERIOD IN 1977 AND 1978, THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, Georgia, was terrorized by a mysterious serial killer who raped and ritualistically strangled seven elderly women in one of the community’s finer neighborhoods. Despite intensive efforts on the part of police the Stocking Strangler, as he came to be known, managed to elude capture. After the last murder in April 1978, the case went cold.

In the spring of 1984, a series of fortuitous events connected to an unrelated murder and a stolen pistol led to the capture of Carlton Gary, who had recently escaped from a South Carolina prison. Following a dramatic trial in August 1986, Gary was convicted of three of the seven Columbus murders and sentenced to death, a penalty that would not be carried out until March 2018.

This convoluted tale of crime and punishment is punctuated by dramatic and unexpected twists and turns including issues of race, alleged conspiracy and misconduct on the part of the police and the judiciary, a second serial killer active in Columbus during the time of the Strangler murders, the Ku Klux Klan, errors in DNA analysis, and a vigorous and prolonged struggle by attorneys and death penalty opponents who believed in Gary’s innocence.
Mercer University Ocmulgee Series

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Editor: S. Heather Duncan has won national, regional, and state awards for her work as a reporter covering the environment, government, and culture of the Southeast. She holds an MA in Oral Storytelling and lives in Knoxville, Tennessee.

The Wild and the Sacred December 2022
Evaluating and Protecting the Ocmulgee River Corridor, Volume 1
Chris Watson; edited by S. Heather Duncan

Chris Watson began developing a tool for mapping wildness across the Georgia landscape, but as work progressed, the study's conception of the region's significance expanded beyond ecology: the floodplain's value is immeasurable to the Muscogee Indians. As the earliest people to settle the Southeast, their ancestors left a physical imprint on the land, from the remains of villages to giant earthen mounds. In turn, the land left a spiritual imprint upon the Muscogee that is still felt today.

Chris Watson is campaign director with the National Parks Conservation Association's southeast regional office in Knoxville, Tennessee. With the organization since 2010, he directs projects primarily in Georgia and Kentucky. Watson holds a PhD in Conservation Geography from the University of Georgia.

A River of Time December 2022
Archaeological Treasures of the Ocmulgee Corridor, Volume 2
Dominic Day; edited by S. Heather Duncan

Every year, thousands of visitors climb the tallest of the ancient Ocmulgee Mounds in Macon, Georgia. Gazing fifty-five feet down from the top of this Great Temple Mound gives a sense of the might and mystery of the earliest Southeastern American civilization. According to Dominic Day, the archaeological finds cover more than fifteen thousand years, the complete human record in the Southeast. While most are not included in the national historical park, this Mercer study makes a strong argument that many should be.

Dominic Day is a Middle Georgia native and a geospatial and cultural resource professional. Day completed studies in anthropology at Georgia State University and geographic information science at Georgia Tech. He currently works with the Environmental Planning group at HNTB in Atlanta, Georgia.

From Settlement to Society December 2022
A History of the Early Mississippian Settlement at Ocmulgee, Volume 3
Daniel Philip Bigman; edited by S. Heather Duncan

Daniel Bigman's research places Ocmulgee's development in the context of other large Early Mississippian mound centers and communities in the geographic region. Bigman argues that Ocmulgee is not a “mystery”—something odd and different—but rather a case study in understanding the interactions among Mississippian communities and how Ocmulgee's struggle for power shaped an individual settlement while leadership roles evolved and social inequality fluctuated.

Daniel Bigman received a PhD in Anthropology from the University of Georgia with a focus on archaeological geophysics applied to Native American sites in the southeastern United States. He is the founder of Bigman Geophysical, LLC, a private firm focusing on training, consulting, and technology supply.
Brigadier General Samuel Elbert’s story spans most of Georgia’s history in the eighteenth century. He is best remembered for his role as a commander of Georgia troops during the American Revolution. Before the war, he was a prominent Savannah merchant and a member of the General Assembly when James Wright was Georgia’s governor.

In 1775, Elbert was instrumental in bringing the Revolution to Georgia and he soon commanded Continental forces in the conflict. He emerged as a significant leader in the age of Revolution in Georgia and participated in almost every major battle in the state prior to his capture at Brier Creek on March 3, 1779. Elbert was present at the Battle of the Rice Boats in 1776, a participant in two of Georgia’s three campaigns into Florida, commanded American troops during the action on the Frederica River in 1778, and was in Savannah when it fell to the British on December 29, 1778. After his exchange, he went to Yorktown, Virginia, and joined George Washington’s forces, where he witnessed the surrender of Lord Cornwallis’s British army in 1781.

In 1785, Elbert became Georgia’s governor, but his one-year term was plagued by border conflicts, particularly with the Creek Indians over the Oconee Lands. Among his most enduring legacies are the creation of independent masonry in Georgia, the chartering of Franklin College which later became the University of Georgia, and a county in the northeast section of the state that bears his name.

**Clay Ouzts** is professor of History at the University of North Georgia, where his areas of historical focus are the American Revolution, Georgia history, Native American history, environmental history, and the Civil War era. He holds a PhD in History from Florida State University.
Contemners and Serpents
The James Wilson Family Civil War Correspondence
edited by Theodore Albert Fuller† and Thomas Daniel Knight

December 2022
Civil War History

Letters from a Presbyterian missionary family between 1859 and 1877 provide unique insight into the Civil War era

Contemners and Serpents presents letters from the family of Presbyterian missionaries James and Eliza Wilson during the Civil War era. Spanning the period from 1859 to 1877, during which family members lived in Tennessee, Georgia, and South Carolina, included are letters written by James Wilson, his wife Eliza Griffing Edwards Wilson, their four sons, and their only daughter.

The book offers a range of individual voices and relates to the battlefield, the home front, and the eastern and western theaters of the war. The Wilsons are an interesting case because the parents were Pennsylvania natives, the children were born and reared in India, and the family spent most of the years between 1834 and 1852 outside the United States.

Neither slaveholders nor landowners, the Wilsons had varied approaches to the war—ranging from neutral or pro-Union sentiment to extreme support for the Confederacy. Although not wealthy, the Wilsons were well-educated and articulate. Their lives, experiences, and points of view offer a distinctive insight into the Civil War era.

Colonel Theodore Albert Fuller (1909–1990) was a graduate of Texas A&M, served in the US Army, then transitioned to the US Air Force. Fuller served on Gen. Bradley’s 12th Army Group staff, helped plan the invasion of Normandy, and participated in five campaigns. While an assistant air attaché in the American Embassy in London from 1949 to 1952, Fuller helped design the American Memorial Chapel in St. Paul’s Cathedral, London.

Thomas Daniel Knight is associate professor of History at the University of Texas–Rio Grande Valley. A native of LaGrange, Georgia, he holds a BA from Washington and Lee University and MST, MLitt, and DPhil degrees in History from the University of Oxford, where he was a Fulbright Scholar. Knight held the Slosson Fellowship in History at the University of Michigan.
This collection of essays on Kierkegaard consists of various articles published in academic journals over the course of several decades. They address dominant and consistent themes in Kierkegaard’s authorship, demonstrating the importance of these topics for understanding his authorship as a whole and for contemporary discussions of these issues. In particular, these articles seek to bring his thought into conversation with women’s and gender studies in contemporary feminist philosophy and hermeneutics as well as other forms of interpretation. Many of the essays appeared in the International Kierkegaard Commentary edited by fellow Kierkegaard scholar, Robert L. Perkins, and it is in his memory that they are dedicated.

Sylvia Walsh taught philosophy and religion at Emory University and Clark College in Atlanta, Georgia, and at Stetson University in DeLand, Florida. She is the author of four books on Kierkegaard, coeditor and translator of his Fear and Trembling (Cambridge University Press), editor and translator of his Discourses at the Communion on Fridays (Indiana University Press), and coeditor of Feminist Interpretations of Søren Kierkegaard (Penn State).

Essays for readers interested in Kierkegaard’s thought on the task of becoming a fully developed human being in the present age.
C. Douglas Weaver is interim chair of the department of Religion and professor of Baptist Studies at Baylor University. He is the author or editor of numerous books, including *Baptists and the Holy Spirit* and *In Search of the New Testament Church*.

Aaron Douglas Weaver serves as communications director for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and teaches at Emory University’s Candler School of Theology. Weaver holds a PhD in Religion and Politics from Baylor University and is the author or editor of five books focused on the public witness of Baptists.

*CLAYPOOL*

edited by C. Douglas Weaver and Aaron Douglas Weaver

foreword by Rowan Claypool

Essays in honor of John Rowan Claypool IV—celebrating the influence of the Baptist preacher turned Episcopal priest

*John Rowan Claypool IV (1930–2005) was one of the most prominent white, progressive Baptist preachers in the South during the latter half of the twentieth century. From the 1960s to the mid-1980s, he was pastor of influential Baptist churches in Louisville, Kentucky, Fort Worth, Texas, and Jackson, Mississippi, and a co-pastor in Lubbock, Texas. Claypool’s pulpit prowess was known to most Baptists through published sermons mailed out weekly by the churches he pastored. His book of sermons, *Tracks of a Fellow Struggler* (1974), described the death of his ten-year-old daughter, Laura Lue, in 1970 and became the basis of a ministry of confessional preaching that was experienced as pastoral care from the pulpit.

In his fifties, the prominent Baptist became an Episcopal priest and served a parish in Birmingham, Alabama, from 1986 to 2000. Claypool was no less popular and no less loved among Episcopalians, and he found rich fulfillment in the ministry of the sacraments. As an Episcopal priest, Claypool concluded his career teaching at Mercer University’s McAfee School of Theology in Atlanta, Georgia.

This book is the first to analyze the various aspects of Claypool’s ministry, from his work in local church/parish settings to his ministry as pastor, priest, and professor. Contributors include Loyd Allen, John W. Arnett, Raymond Bailey, John Rowan Claypool V, R. Alan Culpepper, David W. Hull, Charles Johnson, W. Glenn Jonas, Jr., Mark LaGory, Julie Whidden Long, Henry Parsley, Steven Shoemaker, Walter B. Shurden, and Ruth Wagoner. Their analysis, while celebratory, is insightful and captures the gifts of John Claypool—the confessional pulpiteer and pastor who embodied for so many that “Life is Gift.”

SEPTMEBER 2022 | RELIGION/ESSAYS

6 x 9 | 260 pp. | Hardback $30.00t | 978-0-88146-770-3 | H1030 | Index
Baptists in Early North America—Abbott’s Creek, North Carolina, Baptist Church
Volume IX
edited by J. Kristian Pratt

January 2023
Religion/Baptist History

A history providing insight into the Sandy Creek Baptist Tradition and the schism between Primitive and Missionary Baptists

Volume IX of the Baptists in Early North America Series provides a unique window into the inner life of the Sandy Creek Baptist Tradition. The records of Sandy Creek Baptist Church in North Carolina were destroyed by a fire, leaving a gap in the historical record. Baptists in Early North America—Abbott’s Creek, North Carolina, Baptist Church, Volume IX, containing the records of the first church founded by Shubal Stearns and Daniel Marshall after their Separate Baptist movement took off at Sandy Creek, helps to fill this gap. Abbott’s Creek, like many churches in the Sandy Creek tradition, experienced significant growth during the Second Great Awakening. This growth was followed by an increase in church discipline, then controversy, and eventually schism over the newly formed convention system among North Carolina Baptists. The church split in 1832 with Abbott’s Creek Primitive Baptist Church continuing with the majority of members and Abbott’s Creek Missionary Baptist Church forming a new congregation a few hundred yards away.

The records contained in this volume begin in 1783 when the church was reconstituted following the Revolutionary War and continue through 1836. The records cover the ministries of George Pope and Ashley Swaim and the church’s controversy over mission methods focusing on the work of Samuel Wait. The annotations included along with the transcribed minutes include information about the work of the Sandy Creek Baptist Association, of which Abbott’s Creek was a founding member. An extensive bibliography and indexes are included.
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