

MERCER

UNIVERSITY PRESS



fall / winter / 2023

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Reader,

One Saturday morning I woke at 6:00 a.m. just so I could go outside to watch and listen as Sabbath Creek woke up. I wanted to greet the new day. In the darkness all I could hear was the sound of the water flowing through the creek bed. The birds were still quiet. I imagined that they were preparing to announce that morning had broken.

Emerson wrote in a letter to Margaret Fuller, “Heaven walks among us ordinarily muffled in such triple or tenfold disguises that the wisest are deceived and no one suspects the *days be gods*.” (emphasis mine)

After a few minutes, a northern cardinal broke the silent dawn with a song; and then, other birds began singing announcing the arrival of a *god*, i.e., a *new day*.

It was only a few minutes later when the chipmunks and squirrels came out, all while cardinals, wrens, and bluebirds were singing. There were moments that morning that I thought the squirrels were moving to the sound of the avian choir. Surely not.

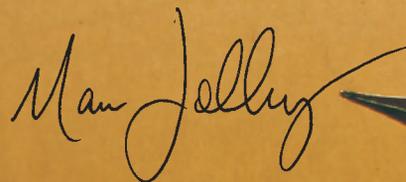
But the life that had been silent and breathing, and now was singing and scurrying surely made up some of Emerson’s disguises of heaven. Other disguises such as the hydrangeas and the flowers drank the night’s dew and now greeted the morning sun. Everything was alive.

So, I thought, this is what goes on while I normally sleep a little later on a weekend morning. And this is what takes place when I rise at 6:00 on a weekday to get ready to go to my office to read, edit, format, correct, and to discuss book sales, marketing plans, and plan conferences and festivals?

So, what is this, really, that takes place each morning?

Eleven years after publishing *Walden*, Thoreau was still visiting Walden Pond. In his journal for March 23, 1856, he reflected on visiting the pond—animals, plants, water, sunshine—for a few hours and wrote: “I am reassured & reminded that I am the heir of eternal inheritances—which are inalienable...The eternity which I detect in Nature I predicate of my-self also.”

When we connect with nature—being in the peace of wild things (Berry)—we find that we, too, are one of the disguises of heaven and each one of us is an heir of eternal inheritances.



Marc Jolley
May 2023



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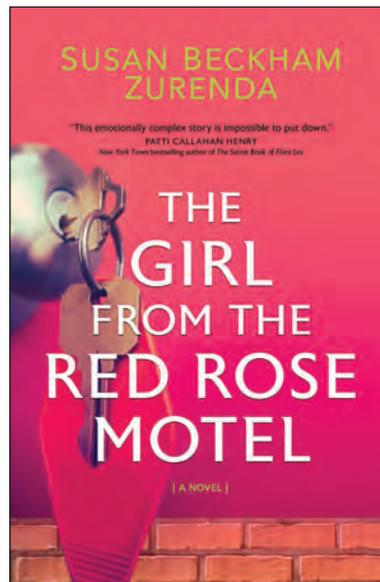
Black bear grazing in Waterton National Park,
iStock

THE GIRL FROM THE RED ROSE MOTEL

A Novel
by Susan Beckham Zurenda

Also available in e-book format

SEPTEMBER 2023
Literary Fiction



“Zurenda’s characters are complex and their story is deeply moving. An excellent novel...bravo!” —Ron Rash, author of The Caretaker

IMPOVERISHED HIGH SCHOOL JUNIOR HAZEL SMALLS AND AFFLUENT SENIOR Sterling Lovell would never ordinarily meet. But when both are punished with in-school suspension, Sterling finds himself drawn to the gorgeous, studious girl seated nearby, and an unlikely relationship begins. Set in 2012 South Carolina, the novel interlaces the stories of Hazel, living with her homeless family in the rundown Red Rose Motel; Sterling, yearning to break free from the expectations of his wealthy parents; and recently widowed Angela Wilmore, their stern but compassionate English teacher.

Hazel hides her homelessness from Sterling until he discovers her cleaning the motel’s office one morning when he goes with his slumlord father to unfreeze the motel’s pipes. With her secret revealed, their relationship deepens. Angela, who has her own struggles in a budding romance with the divorced principal, offers Hazel the support her family can’t provide.

Navigating between privilege and poverty, vulnerability and strength, all three must confront what they need from themselves and each other as Hazel gains the courage to oppose boundaries and make a bold, life-changing decision at novel’s end.

Gripping and richly drawn, *The Girl from the Red Rose Motel* explores the complex bonds between adults and teenagers and the power of the families we both inherit and create. Inspired by the author’s experiences teaching in a South Carolina high school, the novel is also an unflinching, authentic look at the challenges faced by America’s public school teachers and the struggles of thousands of homeless children in motels who live, precariously and almost invisibly, amid the nation’s most affluent communities.

SEPTEMBER 2023 | LITERARY FICTION

6 x 9 | 300 pp. | Hardback, \$27.00 | 978-0-88146-901-1 | H1039
e-book, \$20.00 | 978-0-88146-905-9

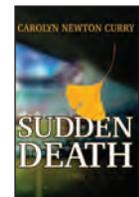
Susan Beckham Zurenda taught English for thirty-three years to college and high school students. Her debut novel, *Bells for Eli*, has received several awards including first place for Best First Book—Fiction in the 2021 Independent Publisher Book Awards. Zurenda has also published and won numerous awards for her short fiction. A life-long South Carolinian, she lives in Spartanburg. Learn more about her at www.susanzurenda.com.

TITLES OF INTEREST



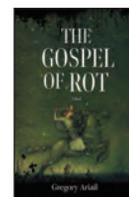
Bells for Eli
A Novel

Susan Beckham Zurenda
Hardback | \$25.00 | H988
978-0-88146-737-6
Paperback | \$18.00 | P608
978-0-88146-774-1
e-book | \$12.00
978-0-88146-750-5



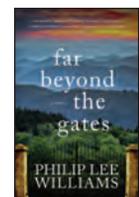
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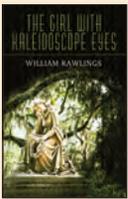


Lightningstruck
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Ashley Mace Havard
Paperback | \$16.00 | P540
978-0-88146-596-9
e-book | \$12.00
978-0-88146-601-0

William Rawlings is a sixth-generation resident of Washington County, Georgia, where he still lives on the family farm. Educated at Emory, Tulane, and Johns Hopkins Universities, he is an avid world traveler, photographer, and prolific writer of Southern stories, including seven novels and six works of nonfiction focusing on Southern history. Learn more about him at www.williamrawlings.com.

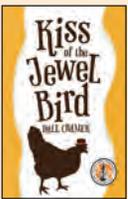
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William Rawlings
Paperback | \$18.00t | P587
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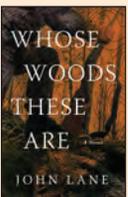
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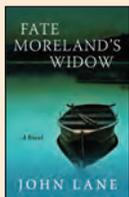
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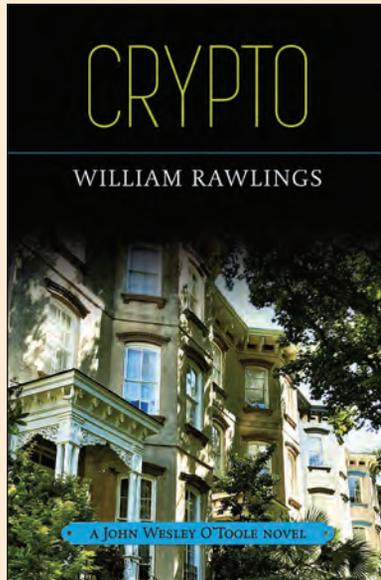
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John Lane
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**CRYPTO**

A John Wesley O'Toole Novel
William Rawlings

Also available in e-book format

AUGUST 2023

Fiction

A twisted tale of intrigue set in historic Savannah, Georgia

JOHN WESLEY O'TOOLE, THE DISBARRED ATTORNEY-TURNED ART DEALER and protagonist of *The Girl with Kaleidoscope Eyes*, returns to face another challenge when he is approached by a wealthy cryptocurrency trader wanting to invest heavily in quality works of art. A proposition that seems almost too good to be true turns deadly when the trader's body is discovered, and the digital code keys needed to retrieve his millions are missing.

The situation becomes even more complicated when investigators find the trader's name was an alias, his background a mystery, and much of the missing fortune appears to belong to domestic terrorist groups. On the possibility that O'Toole had access to the codes before the trader's murder, he finds himself caught between the FBI, Savannah homicide investigators, and a seductive divorcée, each of whom appear to have their own agenda and none of whom can be trusted to reveal the truth.

Set in the beautiful city of Savannah, Georgia, the tale twists and turns toward a shocking and unexpected conclusion as secrets are revealed and O'Toole discovers he can trust no one.

AUGUST 2023 | FICTION

5.5 x 8.5 | 240 pp. | Paperback, \$20.00t | 978-0-88146-903-5 | P677

e-book, \$20.00 | 978-0-88146-904-2

ST. SIMONS ISLAND

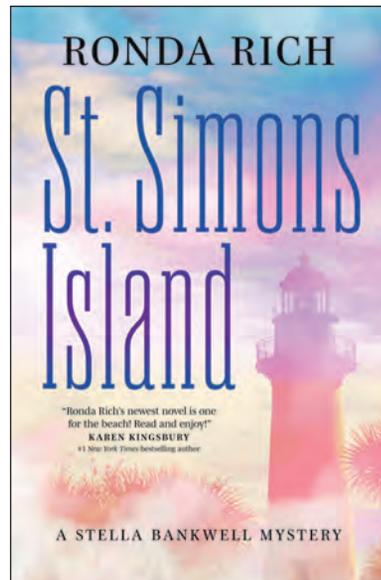
A Stella Bankwell Mystery

Ronda Rich

Also available in e-book format

AUGUST 2023

Fiction



“Ronda Rich’s newest novel is one for the beach! Read and enjoy!”
—Karen Kingsbury, #1 New York Times bestselling author

STELLA BANKWELL HAS SUDDENLY FOUND HERSELF IN A “HEAP OF TROUBLE” in the words of her mountain people. Ten years ago, the charming redhead was a sports marketing executive when she married unforeseen trouble—Asher Bankwell—who is descended from old Atlanta money and prestige.

After public humiliation in front of Atlanta’s snootiest at a black-tie gala, Stella is banished from high society. Running away to her childhood mountain home and her Mama’s consoling, she soon heads for St. Simons Island where the sea and her best friend, Marlo, offer peace and calm.

But there on her beloved island, Stella finds herself embroiled in a mystery that includes murder and money laundering. Simply trying to escape her scandalous embarrassment and an unhappy marriage, she’s now facing real trouble: Possible federal indictments leading to a murder and serious danger for Stella.

With the help of her best friend, Chatty (Chatham Balsam Colquitt IV, the only good that came from her marriage to Asher), who has followed her to his second home on adjoining Sea Island; former Governor McCager Burnett (Chatty’s Sea Island neighbor); and U.S. Marshal Jackson (Pepper) Culpepper, they set out to solve a mystery that, most surely, will send a deep rattling through the columned, brick mansions of Atlanta’s exclusive Buckhead.

“Ronda Rich was born with the divine gift of storytelling. If this is your first time reading Ronda, grab a cup of coffee and a comfortable chair. You can thank me later.”

—Jeff Foxworthy, New York Times bestselling author

“What a firecracker of a read! Ronda Rich invites you to enjoy an exciting mix of Southern-upper-class-pride and honor-abiding-people-of-the-hills. Pure enjoyment.”

—Janette Oke, New York Times bestselling author

AUGUST 2023 | FICTION

5.5 x 8.5 | 304 pp. | Hardback, \$27.00 | 978-0-88146-896-0 | H1037

e-book, \$20.00 | 978-0-88146-897-7

Ronda Rich, whose Georgia roots were planted around 1750, is the bestselling author of several books including *What Southern Women Know (That Every Woman Should)* and *The Town That Came A-Courtin’*, also a television movie. Her weekly syndicated column about Southern life appears in forty-seven newspapers across the Southeast. Learn more about her at www.rondarich.com.

TITLES OF INTEREST



Piano Days

A Novel

Don Reid

Hardback | \$25.00t | H1023

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FICTION



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FICTION



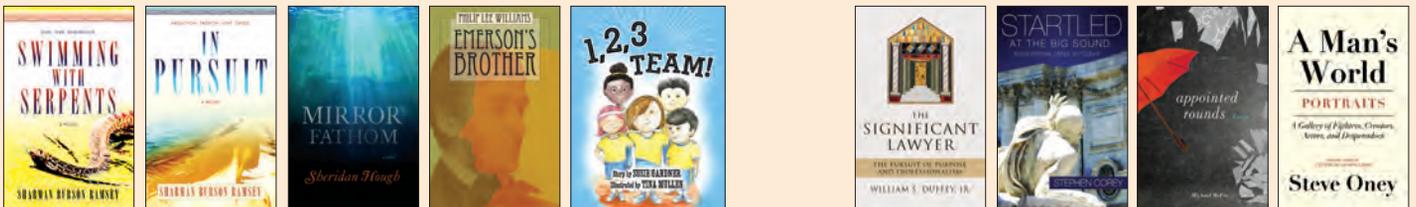
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ESSAYS/POETRY



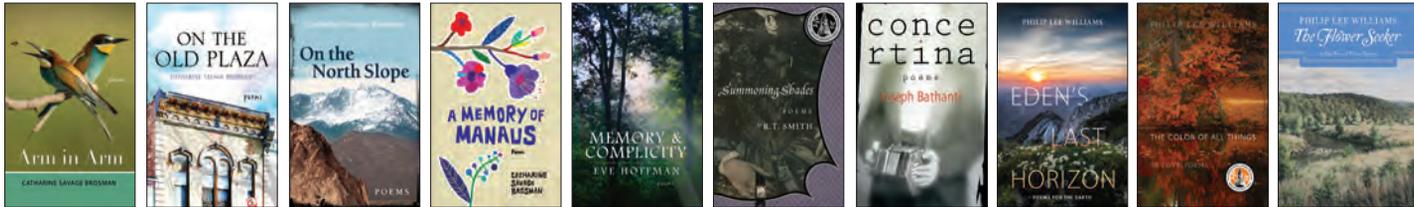
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POETRY



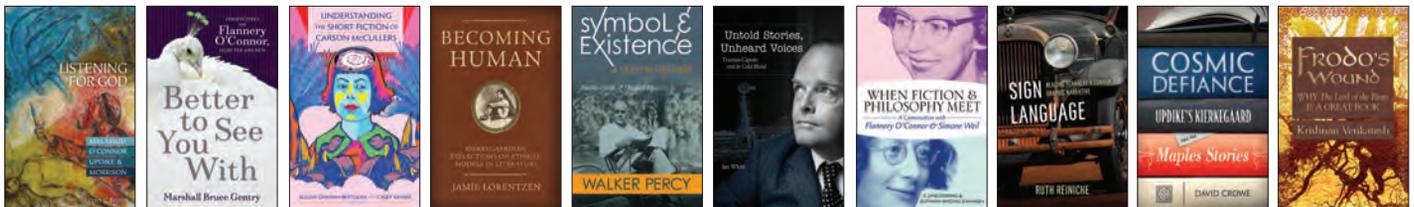
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Symbol and Existence: A Study in Meaning: Explorations of Human Nature Walker Percy; Kenneth L. Ketner, et al., editors H975 | \$29.00t | 9780881467086
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When Fiction and Philosophy Meet: A Conversation with Flannery O'Connor and Simone Weil E. Jane Doering and Ruthann K. Johansen H971 | \$35.00t | 9780881466966
Sign Language: Reading Flannery O'Connor's Graphic Narrative Ruth Reiniche H984 | \$35.00t | 9780881467406
Cosmic Defiance: Updike's Kierkegaard and the Maples Stories David Crowe H891 | \$35.00t | 9780881465020
Frodo's Wound: Why The Lord of the Rings Is a Great Book Krishnan Venkatesh P631 | \$24.00t | 9780881468014

Clifford Brooks is a poet, teacher, and founder of The Southern Collective Experience, a cooperative of writers, musicians, and visual artists. Author of *The Draw of Broken Eyes & Whirling Metaphysics* and *Athena Departs*, he is the editor of *The Blue Mountain Review* and host of NPR's show, *Dante's Old South*. Learn more at www.cliffbrooks.com and www.southerncollectiveexperience.com.

TITLES OF INTEREST



The Evangelist
Poems

David Armand

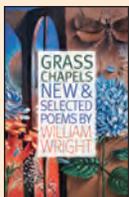
Paperback | \$18.00t | P649
978-0-88146-855-7



Going Farther into the Woods than the Woods Go
Poems

Seaborn Jones

Paperback | \$15.00t | P443
978-0-88146-272-2



Grass Chapels
New & Selected Poems

William Wright

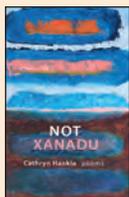
Paperback | \$20.00t | P629
978-0-88146-799-4



Tree Heresies
Poems

William Wright

Paperback | \$18.00t | P501
978-0-88146-520-4



Not Xanadu
Poems

Cathryn Hankla

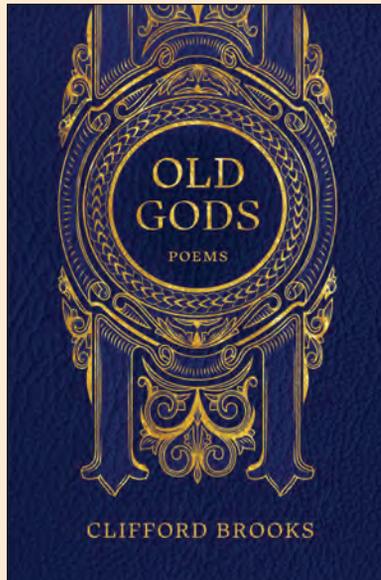
Hardback | \$22.00t | H1022
978-0-88146-832-8



The Disappearing Act
Poems

Sarah Pirkle Hughes

Paperback | \$16.00t | P561
978-0-88146-652-2



OLD GODS

Poems

Clifford Brooks

SEPTEMBER 2023

Poetry

“This is poetry full of music and light... Piercing and free. Revelation songs. What a voice.” —Lee Herrick, *Poet Laureate of California*

THROUGH THE REDEPTIVE POWER OF WORDS, *OLD GODS* CONFRONTS personal battles of addiction, autism, heartbreak, otherness, anxiety, and escapism through journey poems.

Bolstered by faith, family, friends, and vocation, the poet's telling is ordered and meticulous. Here, readers will find that seeping wounds can be healed only by facing life head-on, not getting in its way.

Offering no subterfuge or cryptic turns, Brooks has found quiet after writing this book's last line—a quiet that previous writings never managed.

“If Rainer Maria Rilke shared a notebook with Frank Stanford, something like Clifford Brooks's lyric would climb to the surface. This whirling motion carved from places and worn spaces is as sensitive as it is raw.”

—Alina Stefanescu, author of *Dor* and *Ribald*

*“Clifford Brooks is a poet of awe, of what the Greeks termed *agape*—to be open-mouthed with wonder. These observant, powerfully imaged poems are also open-hearted and embracing of the physical and familial realms, the wild and the domestic, and the possibilities for metaphysical and spiritual transformation.”*

—Stuart Dischell, award-winning author of *Good Hope Road*

*“Clifford Brooks is a poet who just can't help it: poems fly out of him like weightless jewels, like the hummingbirds he writes of so cannily. The poetry in *Old Gods* says essential things in new ways, while remaining tied to individual human vision, in a voice confident and shy, audacious, and tender. It is a joy to read.”*

—Jeffrey Skinner, author of *6.5 Practices of Moderately Successful Poets*

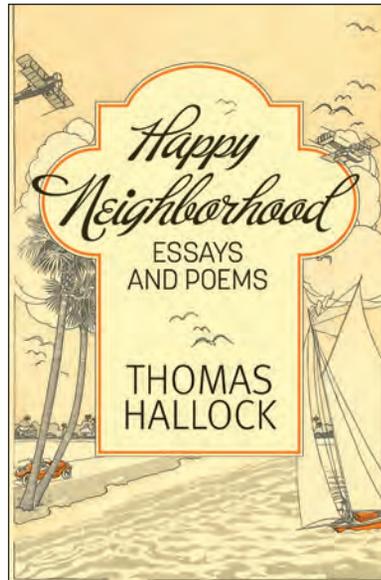
SEPTEMBER 2023 | POETRY

6 x 9 | 100 pp. | Paperback, \$20.00t | 978-0-88146-906-6 | P678

HAPPY NEIGHBORHOOD

Essays and Poems
Thomas Hallock

OCTOBER 2023
Essays/Poetry



“Full of the messy good stuff that makes us human, these poems urge us to sing our truest songs.” —Gloria Muñoz, author of *Danzirly*

HAPPY NEIGHBORHOOD EXPLORES THROUGH POETRY AND PROSE THE cultivation of contented place. How must men in particular sift through the rewards—and belabored grudges—of their own childhoods in order to move productively forward? These thoughtful, carefully crafted meditations seek to define happiness at home.

The poems begin with daily walks, often with a dog, to the waterfront park near the author’s house in St. Petersburg, Florida. The essays, in dialog with the verse, explore the personal, literary, cultural, and historical questions that prompted the poems. Hallock’s influences and reading are wide ranging, though he draws especially from seventeenth-century devotional traditions, in which the reflective writing serves to bring the soul to a proper space of rest. There is poetry about infidelity and marriage, fatherhood, insomnia, a front porch hammock, political corruption, holy communion, and homemade biscuits.

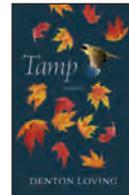
Although seemingly content in title, *Happy Neighborhood* candidly confronts the challenges the author has faced as a father, spouse, and son. Hallock grapples with finding peace in Florida, his adopted home state and not where he ever chose to live. In becoming a father, he must unpack painful emotions that he still carries, and not pass onto his own child. And as a writer, he wrestles with artistic self-indulgence and the need for poetry that can accomplish honest emotional work.

OCTOBER 2023 | ESSAYS/POETRY

6 x 9 | 152 pp. | Paperback, \$22.00t | 978-0-88146-909-7 | P681 | Bibliography | Illustrations

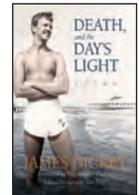
Thomas Hallock is professor of English at the University of South Florida’s St. Petersburg campus. His publications include *A Road Course in American Literature: Travel and Teaching from Atzlán to Amherst*; *From the Fallen Tree: Frontier Narratives, Environmental Politics, and the Roots of a National Pastoral*; and *William Bartram, the Search for Nature’s Design: Selected Art, Letters, and Unpublished Writings*.

TITLES OF INTEREST



Tamp
Poems

Denton Loving
Paperback | \$20.00t | P661
978-0-88146-873-1



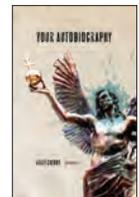
Death, and the Day's Light
Poems

James Dickey;
edited by Gordon Van Ness
Hardback | \$25.00t | H899
978-0-88146-519-8



Weathering
Poems and Recollections

David Havird
Paperback | \$20.00t | P600
978-0-88146-734-5



Your Autobiography
Poems

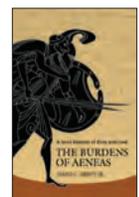
Kelly Cherry!
Paperback | \$18.00t | P580
978-0-88146-701-7



This Gladdening Light

An Ecology of
Fatherhood and Faith
Christopher
Martin

Paperback | \$18.00t | P554
978-0-88146-615-7



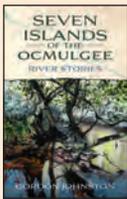
The Burdens of Aeneas

A Son's Memoir
of Duty and Love

James C. Abbot Jr.
Hardback | \$28.00t | H951
978-0-88146-657-7

Gordon Johnston is professor of Creative Writing at Mercer University. A former journalist, he is the award-winning author of *Seven Islands of the Ocmulgee*, *Scaring the Bears*, and *Durable Goods*. With Matthew Jennings, he is the coauthor of *Ocmulgee National Monument: A Brief History with Field Notes*.

TITLES OF INTEREST



Seven Islands of the Ocmulgee

River Stories

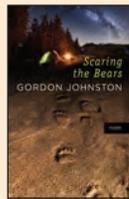
Gordon Johnston

Paperback | \$20.00t | P666

978-0-88146-879-3

e-book | \$20.00

978-0-88146-880-9



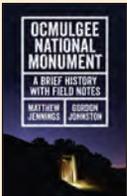
Scaring the Bears

Poems

Gordon Johnston

Paperback | \$16.00t | P619

978-0-88146-779-6



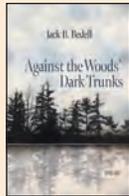
Ocmulgee National Monument

A Brief History with Field Notes

Matthew Jennings and Gordon Johnston

Paperback | \$17.00t | P557

978-0-88146-647-8



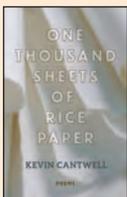
Against the Woods' Dark Trunks

Poems

Jack B. Bedell

Paperback | \$17.00t | P650

978-0-88146-856-4



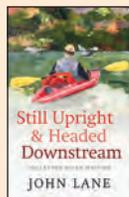
One Thousand Sheets of Rice Paper

Poems

Kevin Cantwell

Paperback | \$20.00t | P663

978-0-88146-875-5



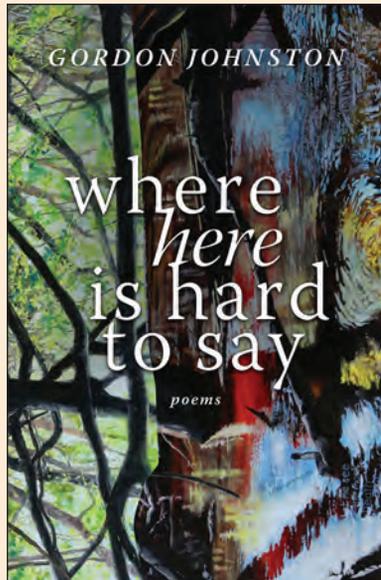
Still Upright & Headed Downstream

Collected River Writing

John Lane

Paperback | \$24.00t | P636

978-0-88146-827-4



WHERE *HERE* IS HARD TO SAY

Poems

Gordon Johnston

OCTOBER 2023

Poetry

Navigating the losses and renewals of nature and life

IN THE TITLE POEM OF GORDON JOHNSTON'S SECOND COLLECTION, A CANOER with his keel in a quick current is too caught up in the flow of water, sunlight, and sycamore leaves to say precisely where he is on the river. He is constantly both arriving and departing, negotiating his passage through a riverscape that is as ancient as it is newborn, that is mapped and familiar but always in flux.

These poems engage the losses and renewals of this flux—encounters with the “trash fish,” turtles, otters, and other lives in Southern rivers and woods as well as in the wilds of West Virginia, Wyoming, and Oklahoma. In these poems, mountains, plains, and creeks—even clay, birch bark, and shelf lichens—speak.

“Where Here Is Hard to Say” also applies in this collection to crossing into new, difficult human territories—“Lonely Middles” of confronting the mortality of friends and parents, letting sons and daughters grow up and away from the home, wrestling with depression, and trying to find stable footing in mid-life as the ecstatic alternates with the awful. The poems invent prayers and weapons against the doubts. Telling stories, writing letters, cutting back brush, carving canoes, listening to Wilco—the poems find fellowship in each of these acts.

By turns wryly funny, rueful, awed, and nostalgic, the voice in these poems may have trouble saying exactly where it is, but it makes the reader glad to be there, too, listening.

There is a hard-won wisdom in these poems, but they are never didactic or preachy. They express their insights through humble, often funny, speakers and through precise images that honor the mysteries of faith and experience. This is a book with stories to tell, visions to impart, and music to convey them memorably.

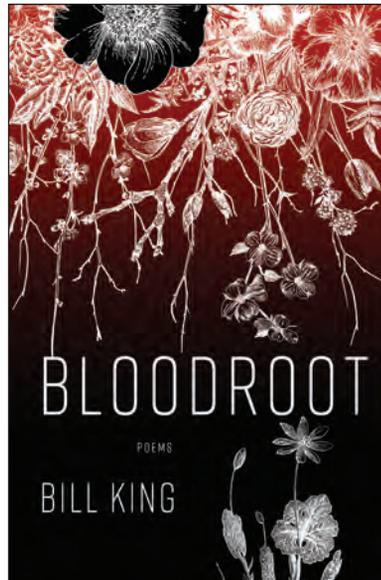
OCTOBER 2023 | POETRY

6 x 9 | 86 pp. | Paperback, \$20.00t | 978-0-88146-908-0 | P680

BLOODROOT

Poems
Bill King

OCTOBER 2023
Poetry



“...exquisitely crafted, deeply ecological, humid poems... Bill King has given us an instant classic...” —Rebecca Gayle Howell

THE POEMS IN BILL KING’S FIRST FULL-LENGTH COLLECTION, *BLOODROOT*, articulate a life grounded in the Blue Ridge and Appalachian Mountains. We see memories of his youth in southwestern Virginia’s Back Creek Valley, as well as poems of adult years in—and exploring the Monongahela Forest that surrounds—the mountain town of Elkins, West Virginia.

These poems follow the root of a life nourished by and inseparable from garden soil, mountain rivers, and the hearths and kitchen table of home back to its origins. “Grown Boy” recalls a solitary childhood spent exploring creeks and two-lanes. In “Black Kite,” a mature father’s sense of home and family take on depth and gratitude after a cancer diagnosis and chronic illness. Poems like “This World Should Be Enough” look beyond personal mortality to honor the mystery and beauty of wild landscapes long threatened by the violence of the extraction industry. Finally, “To Have and To Hold” pledges fealty to love in all of its forms—a stance that makes the book’s meditations on mortality and acceptance, especially “Fifty Gardens In,” as hopeful as they are honest.

By turns narrative and lyrical, these accessible poems find metaphor in native landscapes: “the pink and purple riddles” of joe pye and ironweed, a “cicada, / like a pressure canner thrumming on a stove,” the red-tail hawks that “carry the wounded skyward,” the bloodroot “whose petals fall just as soon / as the flower begins to bloom.” King’s poems offer a language for how to love a world we must, ultimately, leave.

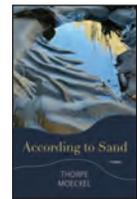
“Bloodroot gifts us sober hope and natural medicine for surviving, and loving, our world as it is now.” —Ann Pancake, author of *Strange as This Weather Has Been*

Bill King is professor of English at Davis & Elkins College. The 2021 Heartwood Poetry Award winner and author of the chapbook *The Letting Go*, his work appears in *100 Word Story*, *The Cincinnati Review*, *Appalachian Review*, and other journals. This full-length collection, his first, commemorates a life lived in the Blue Ridge and Appalachian Mountains.

TITLES OF INTEREST



Where You Come from Is Gone
Poems
Annie Woodford
Paperback | \$17.00t | P648
978-0-88146-854-0



According to Sand
Poems
Thorpe Moeckel
Paperback | \$17.00t | P651
978-0-88146-857-1



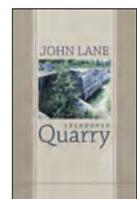
Merciful Days
Poems
Jesse Graves
Paperback | \$16.00t | P611
978-0-88146-756-7



Specter Mountain
Poems
Jesse Graves and William Wright
Paperback | \$16.00t | P562
978-0-88146-653-9



Spring Up Everlasting
Poems
William Woolfitt
Paperback | \$16.00t | P601
978-0-88146-735-2



Abandoned Quarry
New and Selected Poems
John Lane
Paperback | \$20.00t | P428
978-0-88146-241-8

OCTOBER 2023 | POETRY

6 x 9 | 100 pp. | Paperback, \$20.00t | 978-0-88146-910-3 | P682

David Schaeffer practiced law in Atlanta, Georgia, for thirty-eight years and served as president of the Atlanta Bar Association. He graduated from Duke University and University of Virginia School of Law. Author of *Five Big Mountains* and *Another Five Big Mountains and Treks*, Schaeffer currently lives on Kiawah Island, South Carolina.

TITLES OF INTEREST

**Five Big Mountains**

A Regular's Guys Guide to Climbing Orizaba, Elbrus, Kilimanjaro, Aconcagua, and Vinson

David Schaeffer

Paperback | \$25.00t | P555

978-0-88146-641-6

e-book | \$12.00

978-0-88146-632-4

**Another Five Big Mountains and Treks**

A Regular's Guys Guide to Climbing Mt. Rainer, Everest Base Camp, Mt. Fuji, The Inca Trail/Machu Picchu, and Cho Oyu

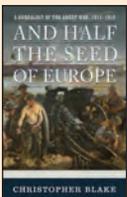
David Schaeffer

Hardback | \$30.00t | H954

978-0-88146-673-7

e-book | \$12.00

978-0-88146-674-4

**And Half the Seed of Europe**

A Genealogy of the Great War, 1914–1918

Christopher Blake

Hardback | \$25.00t | H945

978-0-88146-635-5

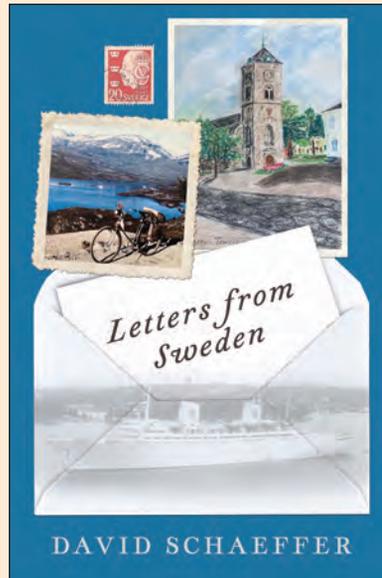
**Reckless Misfortune**

The Century We Inherited from the First World War

Christopher Blake

Hardback | \$30.00t | H1009

978-0-88146-804-5

**LETTERS FROM SWEDEN**

David Schaeffer

OCTOBER 2023

Letters/Biography

A true post-World War II love story—from letters, newspaper articles, brief autobiographies, obituaries, and church archives

THE “GREATEST GENERATION” WAS FILLED WITH WAR HEROES AND LOVE stories, during and shortly after World War II. Love of God, country, and family were the priorities of young men and women facing and surviving military service at the time. Many of their love stories were told in letters written home from overseas. Hidden in dusty boxes in attics or locked away in storage chests, these treasures are occasionally found and their stories finally uncovered.

This is the true story of Bill, a twenty-eight-year-old Gettysburg seminarian and Purple Heart veteran, who was still single, disenchanted with women, and unsure of his future in the ministry. Mary was a twenty-two-year-old, highly educated, pragmatic young woman starting a public health program from scratch in Greenville, South Carolina. After meeting, they quickly fell in love and became engaged on the same day Bill left for an eighteen-month post-graduate religious and academic study program in Sweden in January 1947.

Based on hundreds of handwritten letters during and after the war, this nonfiction historical romance explores how, with God’s help, one couple’s love, commitment, faith, and trust was sustained and grew across an ocean of separation.

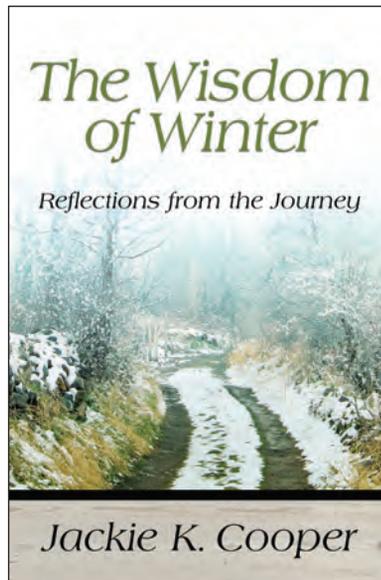
OCTOBER 2023 | LETTERS/BIOGRAPHY

6 x 9 | 288 pp. | Paperback, \$28.00t | 978-0-88146-899-1 | P674 | Photographs

THE WISDOM OF WINTER

Reflections from the Journey
Jackie K. Cooper

SEPTEMBER 2023
Memoir/Essays



A collection of personal stories about love, faith, family, friendship, and navigating life's ebbs and flows

JACKIE K. COOPER HAS SPENT THE LAST THREE DECADES OF HIS LIFE gathering his memories of growing up in the South. He has studied the various seasons of his life and having reached the winter season, he offers reflections on lessons learned, the people who have influenced him, the role of God's hand in his journey, and the good fortune with which he has been blessed.

These stories are presented in a narrative format and are as easy to absorb as a conversation between two friends spending an afternoon on the porch on a breezy summery day. The tea is sweet, and the stories are a mixture of the funny and the sad—but still heartwarming.

Cooper's collection of his "wisdom of winter" is here to be shared, so open this book and let your mind be free to rest and relax, to listen and learn, to anticipate and appreciate.

"Jackie Cooper is utterly charming, optimistic, and gracious—his newest memoir is the balm for the religious soul."

—Karin Slaughter, *New York Times* and internationally bestselling author

"A deeply heartfelt, emotive, and wise memoir, filled with humour and honesty. I adored it."

—Chris Whitaker, *New York Times* bestselling author of *We Begin at the End*

"This is a delightful memoir of a life filled with faith, family, friends, and food, written with the insight that only eight decades can give. Bravo, Jackie!"

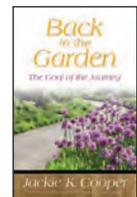
—Lisa Scottoline, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Loyalty*

Jackie K. Cooper is the author of seven books. As a movie and book critic his reviews can be found online on his YouTube channel and social media pages. Cooper is a member of the Broadcast Film Critics Association and one of the founders of the Southeastern Film Critics Association.

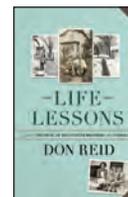
TITLES OF INTEREST



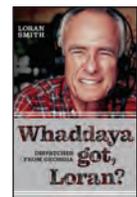
Memory's Mist
The View from the Journey
Jackie K. Cooper
Paperback | \$18.00t | P476
978-0-88146-464-1



Back to the Garden
The Goal of the Journey
Jackie K. Cooper
Paperback | \$18.00t | P423
978-0-88146-234-0



Life Lessons
Don Reid
Hardback | \$25.00t | H1007
978-0-88146-796-3
e-book | \$23.00
978-0-88146-815-1



Whaddaya Got, Loran?
Dispatches from Georgia
by Loran Smith
Hardback | \$25.00t | H1013
978-0-88146-797-0
e-book | \$23.00
978-0-88146-816-8

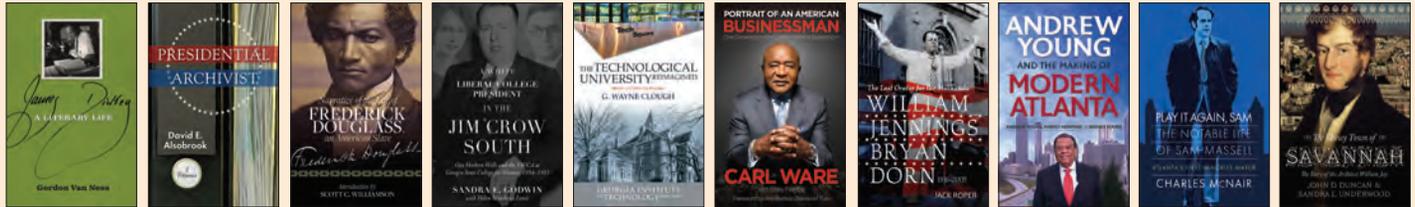


Tales from Georgia's Gnat Line
Larry Walker
Hardback | \$27.00t | H973
978-0-88146-698-0
e-book | \$12.00
978-0-88146-699-7

SEPTEMBER 2023 | MEMOIR/ESSAYS

6 x 9 | 184 pp. | Paperback, \$20.00t | 978-0-88146-907-3 | P679

MEMOIR/BIOGRAPHY



James Dickey: A Literary Life Gordon Van Ness H1021 | \$45.00t | 9780881468267

Presidential Archivist: A Memoir David E. Alsobrook[†] H994 | \$29.00t | 9780881467635

Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave Frederick Douglass; introduction by Scott C. Williamson P607 | \$16.00t | 9780881467925

A White Liberal College President in the Jim Crow South: Guy Herbert Wells and the YWCA at Georgia State College for Women, 1934–1953 Sandra E. Godwin H1006 | \$35.00t | 9780881467901

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Portrait of an American Businessman: One Generation from Cotton Field to Boardroom Carl Ware with Sibley Fleming H977 | \$29.00t | 9780881467154 e-book | \$12.00 | 9780881467284

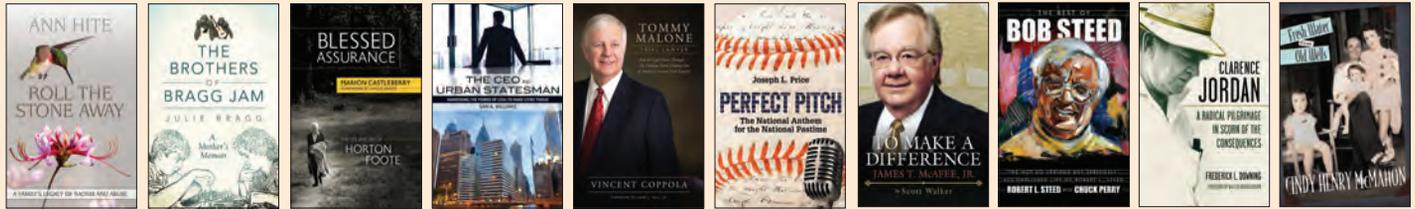
The Last Orator for the Millhands: William Jennings Bryan Dorn, 1916–2005 Jack Roper H966 | \$40.00t | 9780881466904

Andrew Young and the Making of Modern Atlanta Andrew Young, Harvey Newman, and Andrea Young H921 | \$29.00t | 9780881465877

Play It Again, Sam: The Notable Life of Sam Massell, Atlanta's First Minority Mayor Charles McNair H941 | \$29.00t | 9780881466294

"The Show Town of Savannah": The Story of the Architect William Jay John D. Duncan and Sandra L. Underwood H965 | \$40.00t | 9780881466898

MEMOIR/BIOGRAPHY



Roll the Stone Away: A Family's Legacy of Racism and Abuse Ann Hite P598 | \$18.00t | 9780881467321 e-book | \$12.00 | 9780881467482

The Brothers of Bragg Jam: A Mother's Memoir Julie Wallace Bragg P566 | \$18.00t | 9780881466584

Blessed Assurance: The Life and Art of Horton Foote Marion Castleberry[†] H892 | \$35.00t | 9780881465051

The CEO as Urban Statesman Sam A. Williams H895 | \$25.00t | 9780881465105

Tommy Malone, Trial Lawyer: ...One of America's Greatest Trial Lawyers Vincent Coppola H952 | \$30.00t | 9780881466621 e-book | \$12.00 | 9780881466850

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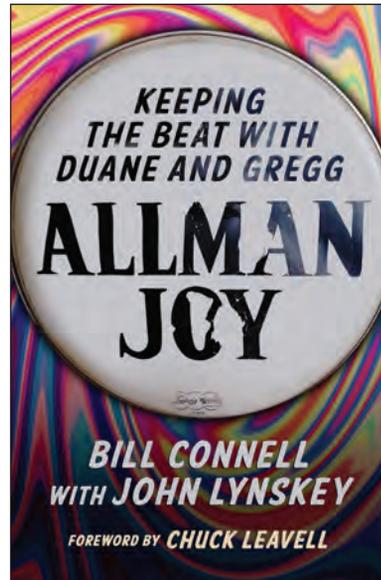
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ALLMAN JOY

Keeping the Beat with
Duane and Gregg

Bill Connell with John Lynskey
foreword by Chuck Leavell

AUGUST 2023
Memoir



“The wonderful, fun, and interesting journey of a talented young drummer from Tuscaloosa, Alabama.” —Chuck Leavell

ALLMAN JOY: KEEPING THE BEAT WITH DUANE AND GREGG IS BILL CONNELL’S insightful account of the mid-1960s musical journey he went on as the drummer for The Allman Joys, a group that was a precursor to The Allman Brothers Band. A native of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, Connell began drumming as a teenager, and worked his way through the burgeoning Tuscaloosa music scene.

A passing encounter with the brothers Allman in 1966 led to Connell being offered the drummer’s chair in The Allman Joys. The day after high school graduation at age seventeen, he found himself headed to New York City’s Greenwich Village to join the band. His experiences touring with the group over the next several years make for captivating stories and offer tremendous insight into a little-known chapter in the development of The Allman Brothers Band.

Connell’s time in the band was cut short by the draft, but he remained in contact with both Allmans, and he resumed his musical career after his service in the U.S. Navy was completed.

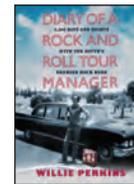
Bill Connell’s love for Duane and Gregg shines brightly throughout the book. This memoir is loaded with touching personal thoughts and hilarious tales from the road, making it a must-read for music fans of all ages.

—Due to the untimely passing of Bill Connell on March 31, 2023, this book is being posthumously published.

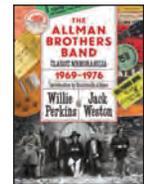
Navy veteran **Bill Connell** (1948–2023) was a native of Tuscaloosa, Alabama. He was best known as a professional live and studio drummer, music publisher, music and video producer, and director for public television.

John Lynskey has been involved with The Allman Brothers Band since 1995, first serving as editor-in-chief of *Hittin’ the Note*, the group’s music magazine. He coauthored *My Cross to Bear*, Gregg Allman’s best-selling autobiography, and currently serves as resident historian at The Allman Brothers Band Museum at the Big House in Macon, Georgia.

TITLES OF INTEREST



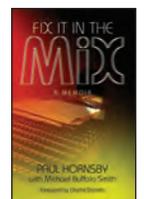
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Willie Perkins
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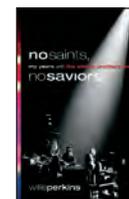
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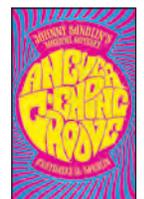
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Paul Hornsby,
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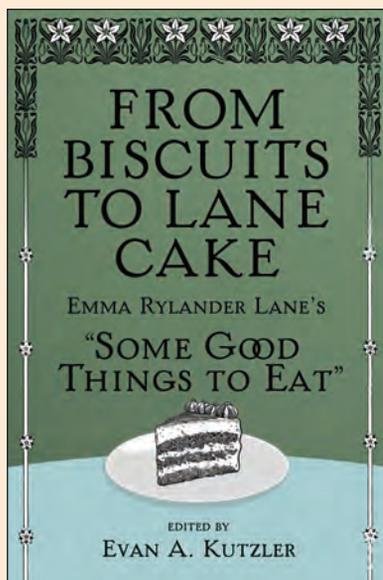
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Anathalee G. Sandlin
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AUGUST 2023 | MEMOIR

MUSIC AND THE AMERICAN SOUTH SERIES

6 x 9 | 256 pp. | Paperback, \$26.00t | 978-0-88146-900-4 | P675 | Photographs

Evan A. Kutzler is associate professor of U.S. and Public History at Western Michigan University. He is the author or editor of many books, including *Ossabaw Island: A Sense of Place* and *Prison Pens: Gender, Memory, and Imprisonment in the Writings of Mollie Scollay and Wash Nelson, 1863–1866*.



FROM BISCUITS TO LANE CAKE

Emma Rylander Lane's
Some Good Things to Eat
edited by *Evan A. Kutzler*

OCTOBER 2023

Food/History

Revealing the life story of Southwest Georgian, Emma Rylander Lane—and the backstory of Alabama’s official state dessert

TITLES OF INTEREST



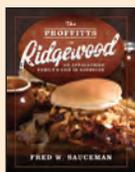
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WHEN THE LANE CAKE, NAMED AFTER EMMA RYLANDER LANE (1856–1904), appeared in Harper Lee’s *To Kill a Mockingbird* (1960), the boozy Southern dessert was at peak popularity. Yet the culinary artist behind the cake had fallen into obscurity. *From Biscuits to Lane Cake* recovers Lane’s biography, as well as the recipes she published in *Some Good Things to Eat* (1898) and the *Columbus Enquirer-Sun*.

Born in Americus, Georgia, and left fatherless in the American Civil War, Lane spent most of her life living, studying, and managing a household in Southwest Georgia. While in Clayton, Alabama, and Columbus, Georgia, she drew on the diverse culinary heritage of the U.S. South as she won cooking demonstration competitions, published a cookbook, and taught cooking classes. The family’s move from the U.S. South to Mexico, alongside a tragedy there, cut short her fame.

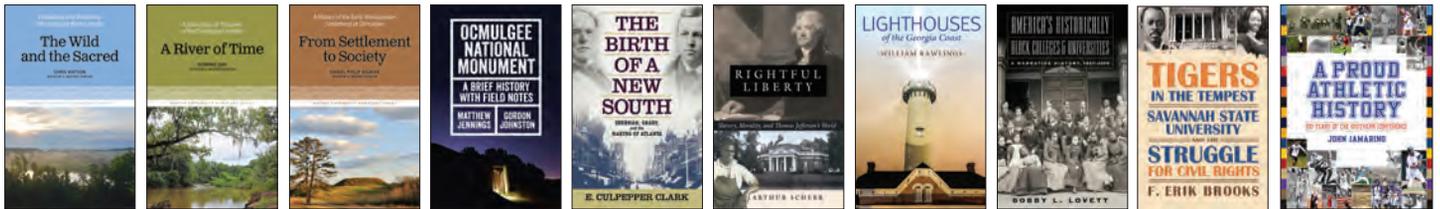
By recovering the life story of Emma Rylander Lane, *From Biscuits to Lane Cake* reveals the Georgia backstory of Alabama’s official state dessert. Lane’s recipes—from biscuits, wafers, and loaf cakes to salads, cordials, and holiday favorites—show that her expertise went far beyond the bourbon-infused dessert that bears her married name.

OCTOBER 2023 | FOOD/HISTORY

FOOD AND THE AMERICAN SOUTH SERIES

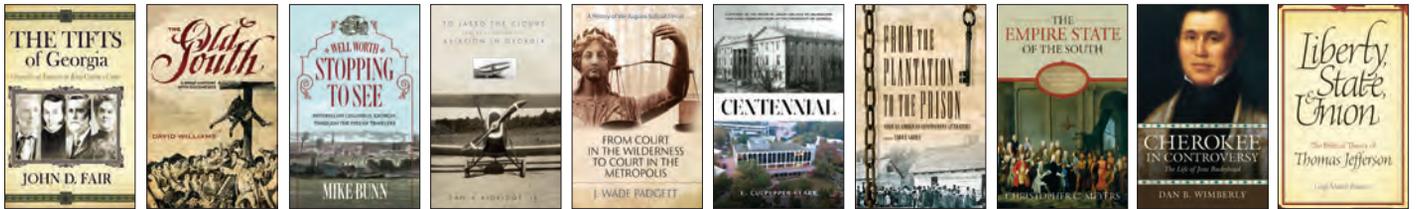
5.5 x 8.5 | 158 pp. | Paperback, \$22.00t | 978-0-88146-902-8 | P676 | Illustrations | Recipes

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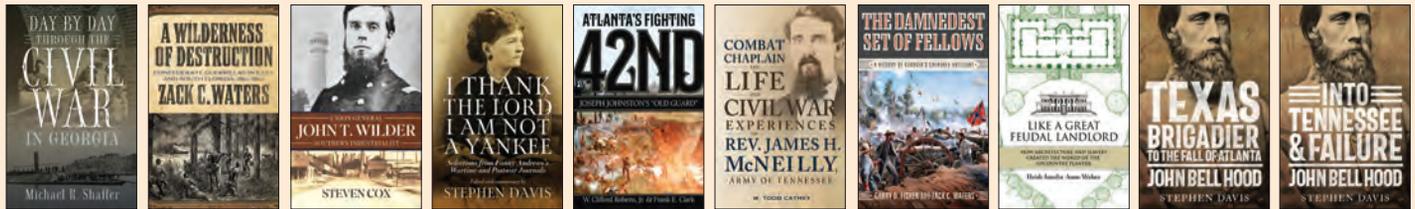
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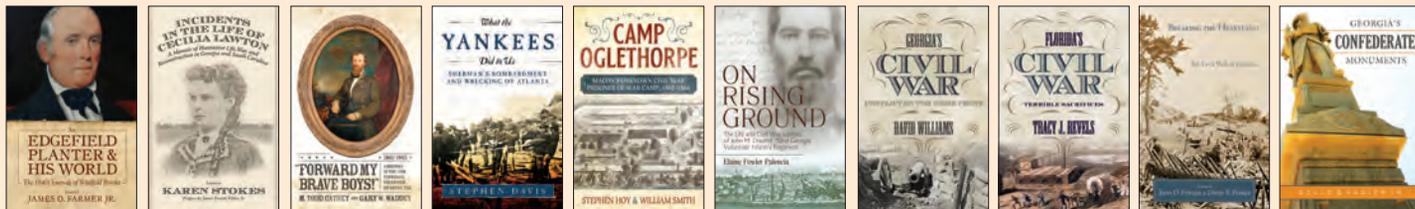
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CIVIL WAR ERA



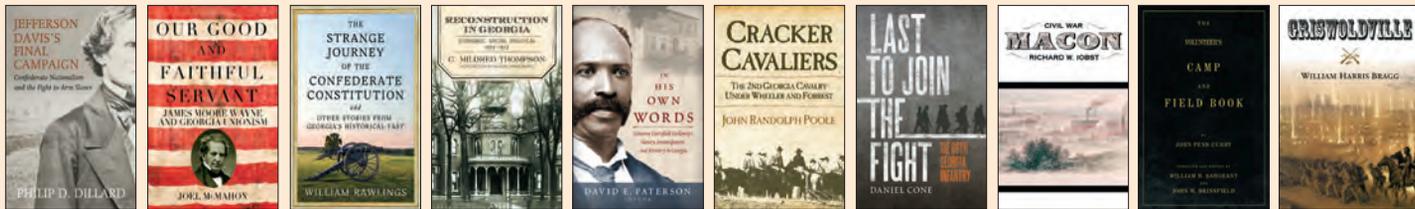
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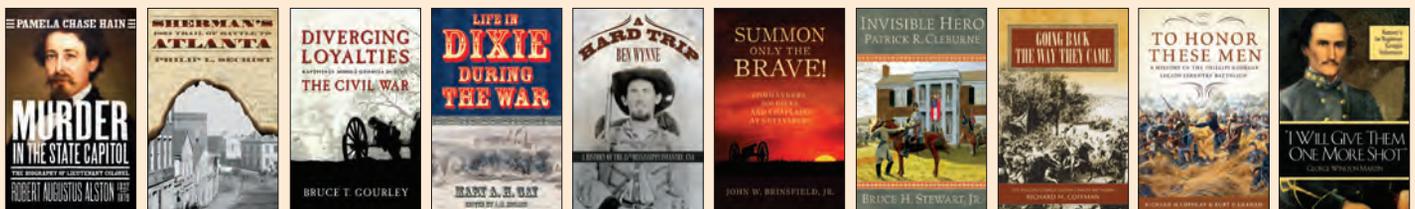
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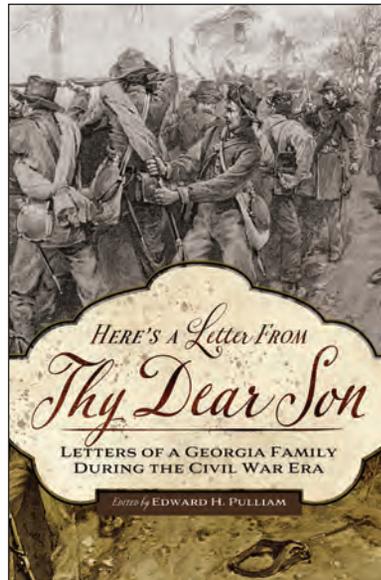
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HERE'S A LETTER FROM THY DEAR SON

Letters of a Georgia Family
during the Civil War Era
edited by *Edward H. Pulliam*

DECEMBER 2023
Civil War History/Letters



*The absorbing story of the David family of North Georgia—
as told through the intimacy of their letters*

HERE'S A LETTER FROM THY DEAR SON PROVIDES A PERSONAL, primary-source exploration of the Civil War era from several different perspectives in an unusually full and informative narrative.

Through the intimacy of letters, it tells the compelling story of young men and women of a North Georgia farming family of modest means as they seek places in their quiet communities in the 1850s, live the trauma of the Civil War on the battlefield and at home, and for those who survive, strive to regain peace in a changed world and begin life anew.

We begin in 1847, as a seventeen-year-old Simeon David leaves home to teach school in a nearby county and continues as he, his younger brothers Tom and Horatio, sister Lona, and their friend Manning Alexander confront questions familiar to young people today: Where shall I live? Whom shall I marry? What will be my life's work?

The arrival of the Civil War sweeps them up, transforms the young men into soldiers—private, lieutenant, regimental surgeon, company commander—and transports them to previously little-known places: Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Vicksburg, and the Wilderness. At home, the family women face their own disruptions and hardships. For one, it is more than she can bear.

Throughout, their lives were filled with joy, struggle, fatalism, triumph, and sadness. Their writing concerns Baptist camp meetings, courting rituals, war-rousing speeches, dashes across battlefields, Tories on the home front, and night riders of the Klu Klux Klan.

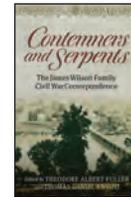
“... This is a marvelously edifying work of historical scholarship. An engrossing account of life in the American South during its most momentous era.”—*Kirkus Reviews*

DECEMBER 2023 | CIVIL WAR HISTORY/LETTERS

6 x 9 | 600 pp. | Hardback, \$50.00t | 978-0-88146-911-0 | H1040 | Bibliography | Photographs

Edward H. Pulliam is a graduate of Davidson College and Columbia University Law School. A freelance editor and writer, his articles have appeared in national history magazines, the *Washington Post*, and other publications. He is the author of *Historic Alexandria: An Illustrated History*. Pulliam, a member of the Generals Barton-Stovall Association, lives in Alexandria, Virginia.

TITLES OF INTEREST



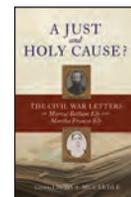
Contemners and Serpents

The James Wilson Family Civil War Correspondence
edited by
*Theodore Albert Fuller*¹ and
Thomas Daniel Knight
Hardback | \$45.00t | H1028
978-0-88146-859-5



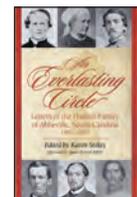
The Legion's Fighting Bulldog

The Civil War Correspondence of William G. Delony, Lt. Col. of Cobb's Georgia Legion Cavalry, and Rosa Delony, 1853–1863
edited by
*Vincent Joseph Dooley*¹ and
Samuel Norman Thomas, Jr.
Hardback | \$35.00t | H927
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A Just and Holy Cause?

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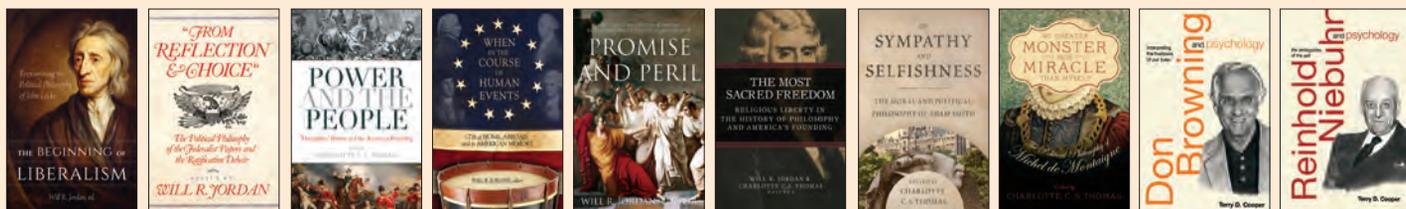
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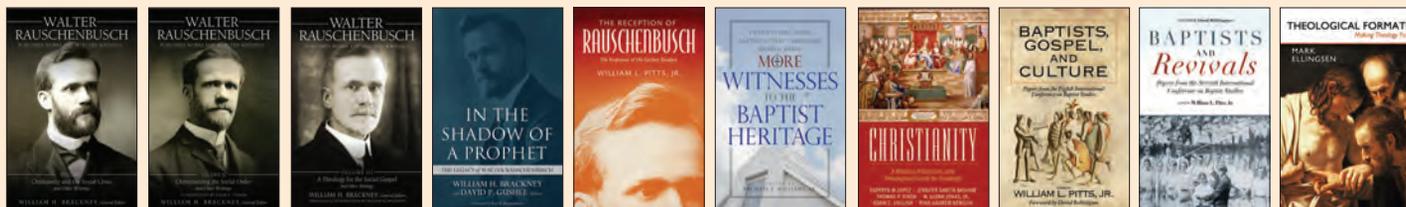
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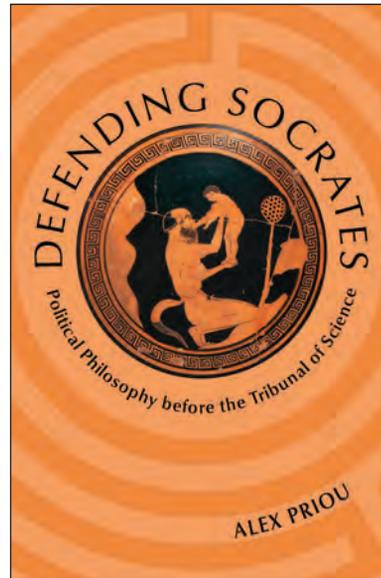
DEFENDING SOCRATES

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Alex Priou

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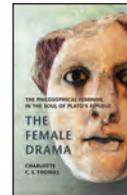
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Alex Priou is a teaching assistant professor in the Herbst Program for Engineering, Ethics, & Society at the University of Colorado Boulder. He is the author of three books on Platonic political philosophy, as well as numerous articles and essays on the history of philosophy. Priou is also the cohost of a political philosophy podcast, *The New Thinkery*. Learn more about him at alexpriou.com.

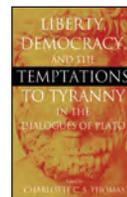
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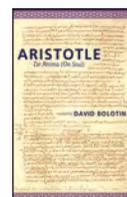
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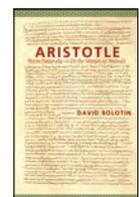
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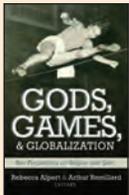
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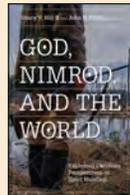
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Chris Birkett is visiting lecturer in Journalism at City, University of London. He holds a BA in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics from the University of Oxford, and an MA in American Studies and PhD in US History from King's College London. Birkett has had a distinguished career as a journalist in the broadcast news industry, covering six US presidential elections and the impeachment of Bill Clinton. His baseball travels have taken him to all thirty MLB franchises.

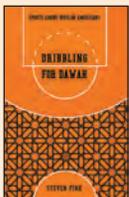
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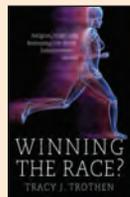
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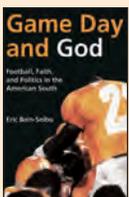
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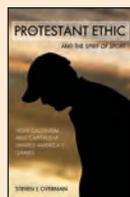
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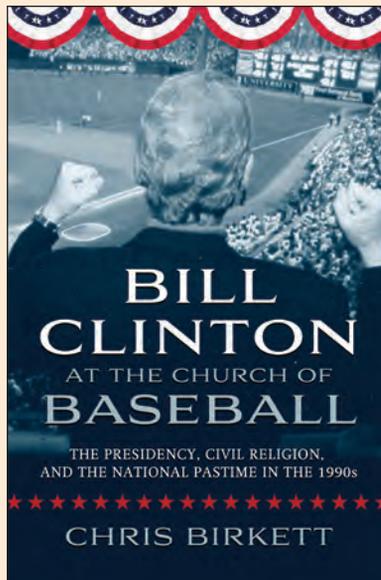
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Chris Birkett

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How the mythology of baseball shaped White House responses to some of the most controversial social and political debates of the era

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This is a story of the game's connections with national identity, heroism, race, and traditional American values, and how they were used by Clinton in his battles over affirmative action, welfare reform, and ethics in public life. It climaxes in the summer of 1998, when an epic home run chase between two baseball 'gods,' Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa, acted as the cultural counterpoint to a more toxic drama simultaneously playing out in the public arena—the constitutional crisis and national moral spasm induced by a sex scandal involving the President and a White House intern.

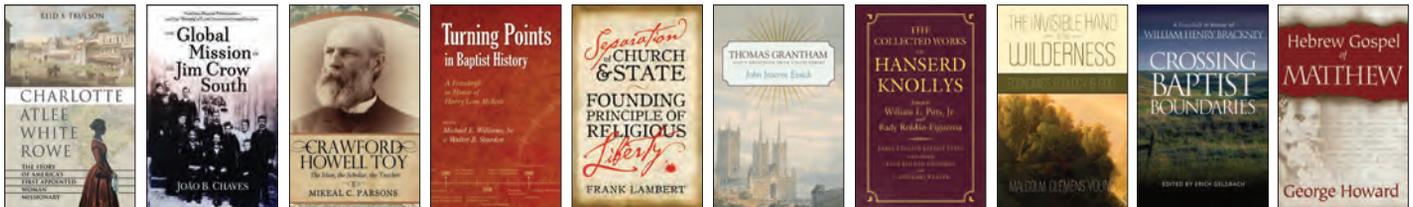
As the reality of impeachment closed in, Clinton sought to divert attention from his own moral failings by invoking an idealistic vision of a game, which itself was being corrupted by the use of performance enhancing drugs. Drawing on newly released documents from the Clinton archive, and original interviews with former White House staffers, this study reveals that by embracing the quasi-religious ideals of the national pastime, Clinton sought to address the anxieties of those who yearned for normality in an unsettled world, and to validate his troubled leadership at times of personal crisis and political peril.

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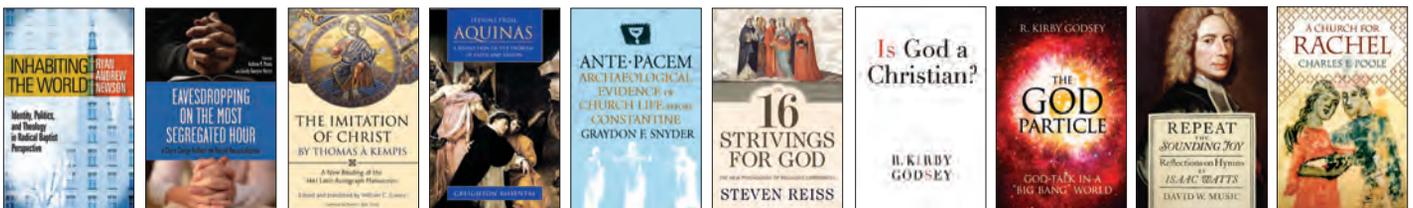
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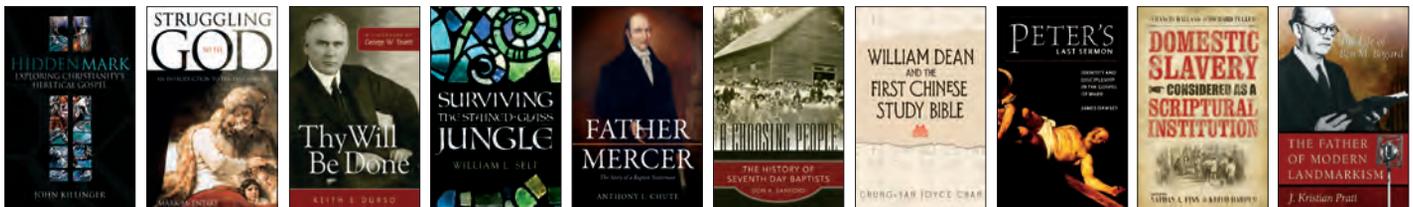
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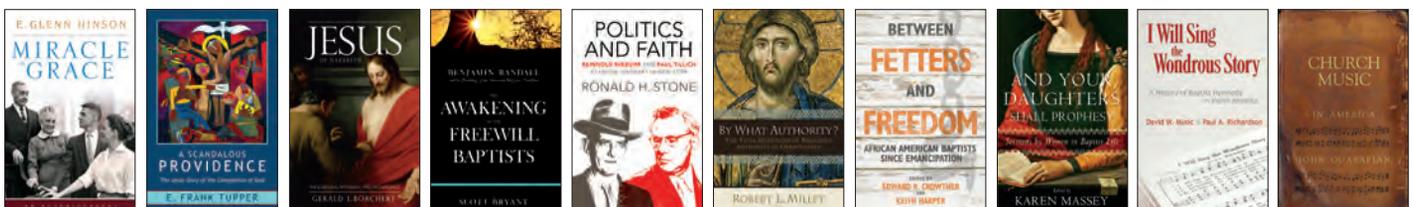
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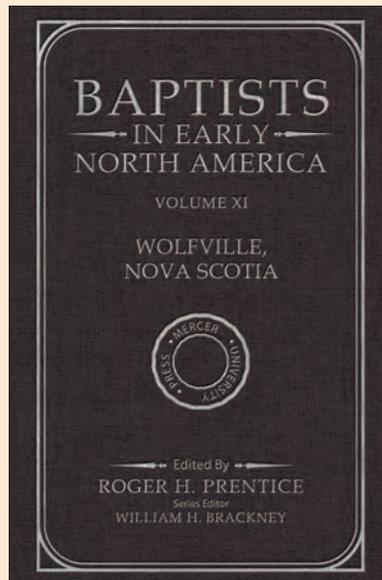
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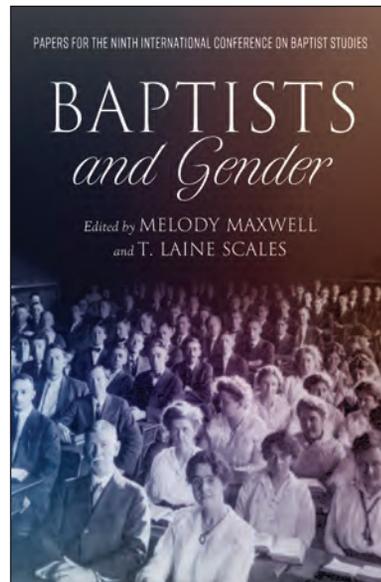
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Melody Maxwell serves as associate professor of Christian History at Acadia Divinity College in Wolfville, Nova Scotia, and is director of the Acadia Centre for Baptist and Anabaptist Studies.

T. Laine Scales is professor of Social Work in the Diana R. Garland School of Social Work at Baylor University. She also serves as codirector of the Baptist Scholars International Roundtable.

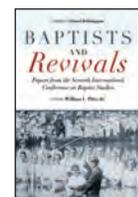
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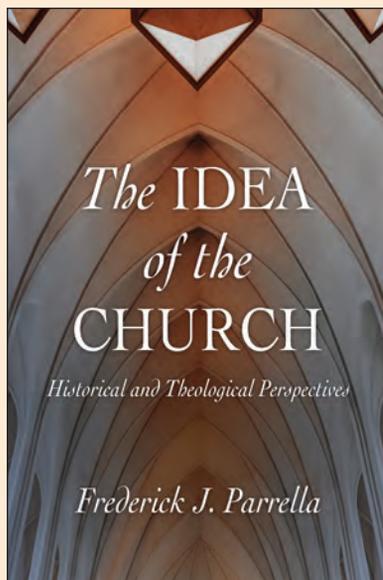


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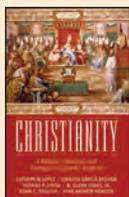
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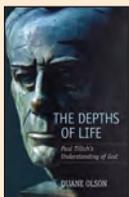
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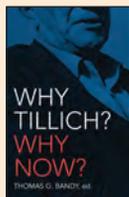
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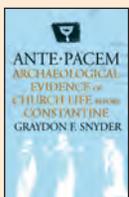
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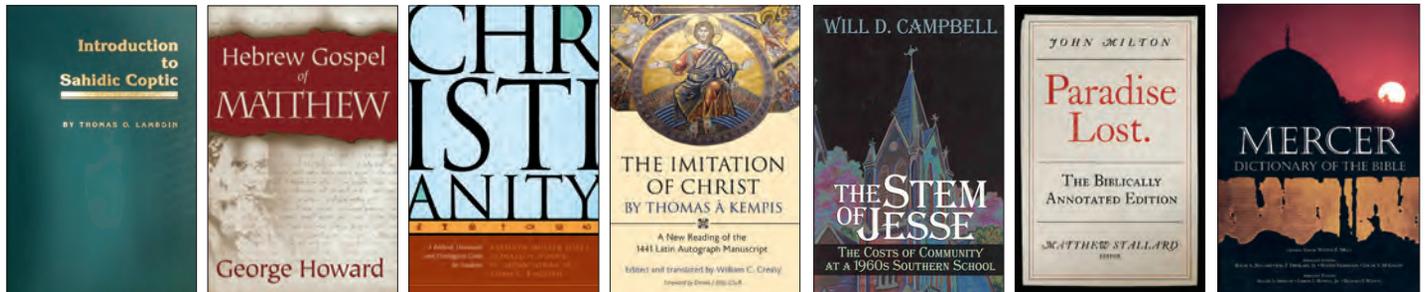
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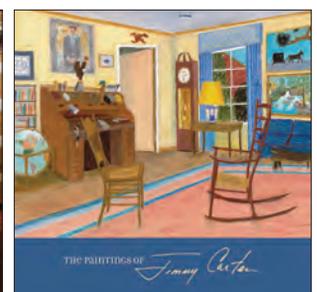
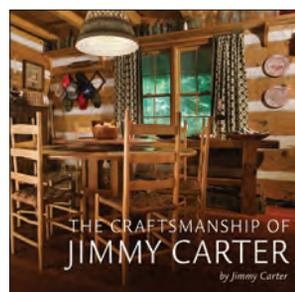
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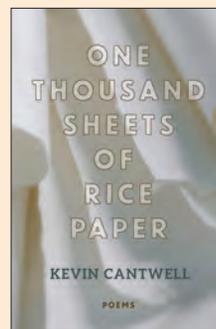
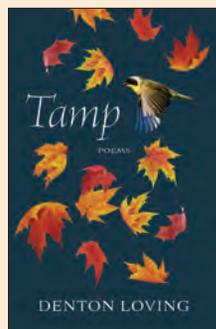
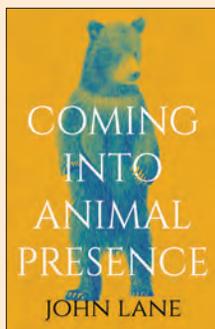
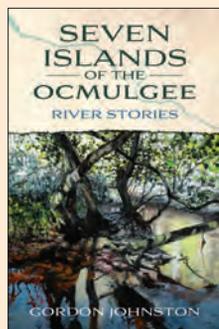
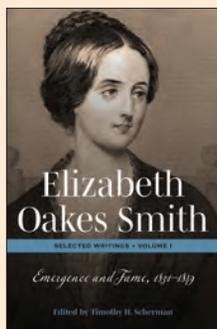
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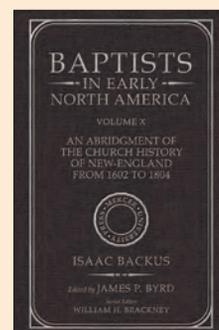
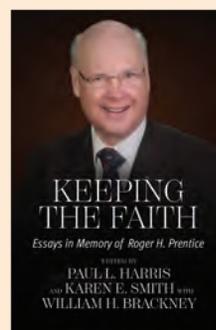
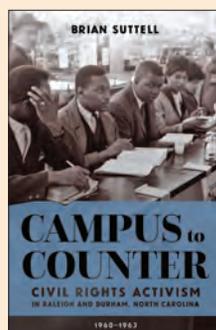
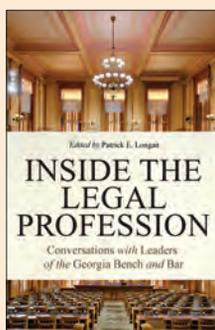
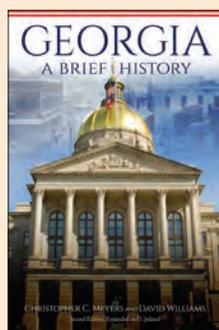
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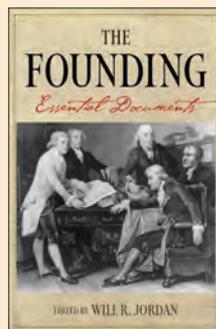
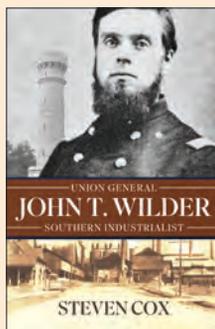
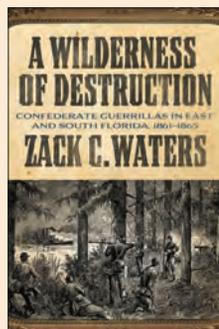
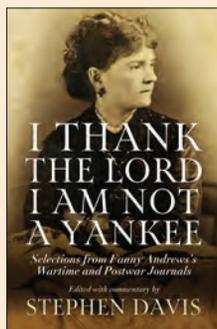
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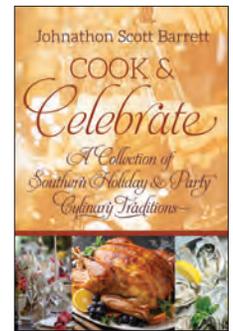
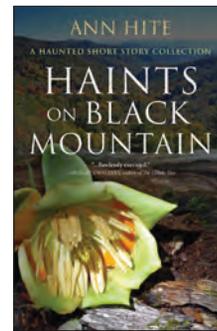
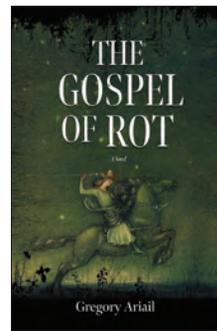
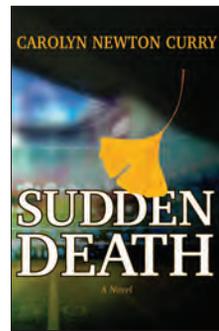
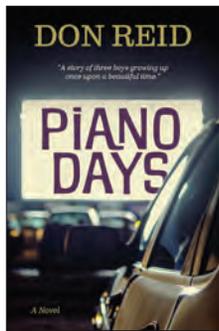
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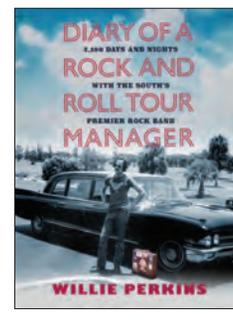
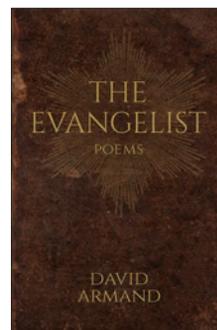
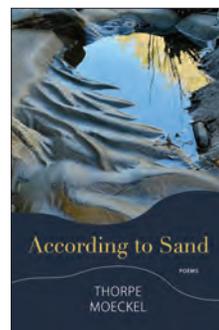
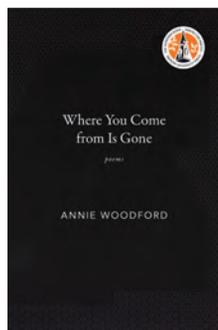
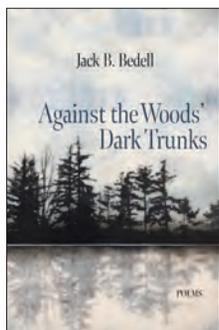
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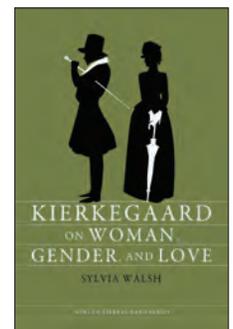
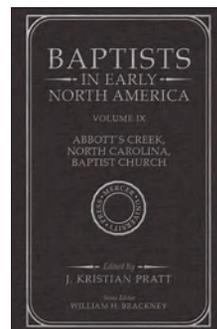
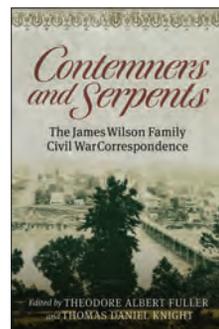
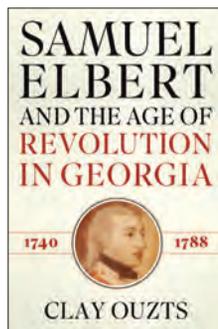
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