

# MERCER

## UNIVERSITY PRESS



*spring / summer / 2026*



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On the Cover: *Black Bear Along a Stream*  
(iStock: credit KenCanning)

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Reader,

From 1845 until about 1852 Ireland suffered a disease against the potato, a staple for Irish diets, and more than one million died as a result. During this traumatic time, more than two million left Ireland in hopes of improving their lives. In America, from 1845 until 1847, Henry David Thoreau lived in a small house by a pond writing a book (published in 1849) in his brother's memory. In 1854 he published his second book, *Walden*. In his conclusion Thoreau writes: "While England endeavors to cure the potato-rot, will not any endeavor to cure the brain-rot, which prevails so much more widely and fatally?"

Did Thoreau really think brain-rot was deadlier than the potato famine? We have no idea what facts Thoreau had and whether or not he knew the severity of the famine. But think about it. Could he have been right?

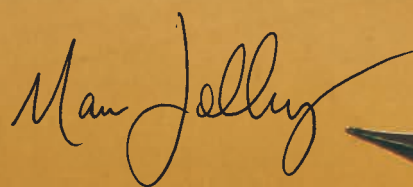
In 2024 "brain rot" was selected as the Oxford Word of the Year and, according to *Scientific American*, refers to "supposed deterioration of a person's mental or intellectual state,' resulting from the 'overconsumption' of trivial material—especially stuff found on the Internet."

Well, I believe it. Brain rot comes with continuous scrolling on devices filled with AI and fake news, and before we know it, an hour or two has passed and we feel empty. Brain rot most assuredly.

While there were solutions to the potato famine, no one knew them at the time. At least today we know better. But, if Thoreau was right, then brain rot is a bigger crisis than the potato famine that decimated Ireland. Is our culture being obliterated by trivial material? There is no doubt.

Science keeps telling us that the best thing a person can do to keep their mind sharp is to keep it active, and reading (good) books is one of the best ways to do that.

There is no time in a human life to waste. It is terribly short. Thoreau calls it the "Gospel of the present moment." So grab a friend and have a real conversation. Or read a book. There are suggestions in the pages ahead.



Marc Jolley  
22 December 2025

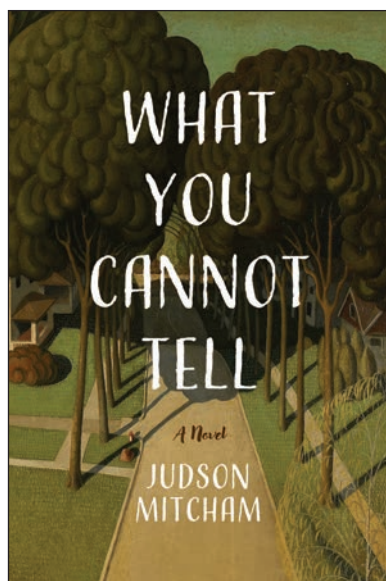


# WHAT YOU CANNOT TELL

A Novel  
Judson Mitcham

Also available in e-book format

**FEBRUARY 2026**  
Fiction



*This is a story of a solitary and troubled former professor—  
now unwell and living out his last days*

**WHAT YOU CANNOT TELL, THIS SHORT NOVEL BY JUDSON MITCHAM, IS** the story of Everett Moon, a white man who returns to his hometown in north Georgia after a teaching career at a historically black college, which has dismissed him for cause after almost thirty years.

Though his brother still lives in town and invites him to share his house, Everett takes up residence in an extended-stay motel, where he spends his days looking through the boxes he brought with him and reviewing the materials that document his teaching career.

Everett's life has been unusual in a variety of ways, and the details of his experiences, especially during his first year at the college, are the focus of the novel. This is a story of a solitary and troubled man—now unwell and living out his last days—who searches in a somewhat haphazard way for perspective and understanding, and for forgiveness.

At its heart, *What You Cannot Tell* is concerned with, as Flannery O'Connor said fiction must be, "those concrete details of life that make actual the mystery of our position on earth."

Praise for *Sabbath Creek*: "...a transcendent coming-of-age story...infused with the surface languor and latent violence of the Deep South... This spare, lovely novel, while generous in humor, is anchored by sorrow and interspersed with portents of tragedy."

—*The New York Times Book Review*

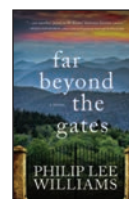
Praise for *The Sweet Everlasting*: "One of the best books of fiction I have ever read. From beneath an iron-tough exterior emerges a durable tenderness as clear as any sunrise. How Judson Mitcham has done it, I can't say, but his first novel is a masterpiece." —*Fred Chappell*

**FEBRUARY 2026 | FICTION**

5.5 x 8.5 | 200 pp. | Paperback, \$20.00t | 979-8-89736-007-9 | P733 | Notes  
e-book | 979-8-89736-008-6

**Judson Mitcham** is the former poet laureate of Georgia and a member of the Georgia Writers Hall of Fame. His other two novels won the Townsend Prize for Fiction. A new collection of his poems, *Let Your Heart Be Troubled*, is forthcoming in 2026. Mitcham lives in Macon, Georgia.

## TITLES OF INTEREST



**Far Beyond the Gates**  
A Novel

Philip Lee Williams  
Hardback | \$25.00t | H982  
978-0-88146-736-9  
e-book available online



**The Forever Wish of Middy Sweet**  
A Novel

Terry Kay<sup>†</sup>  
Hardback | \$24.00t | H991  
978-0-88146-753-6  
e-book available online



**The Book of Marie**  
A Novel

Terry Kay<sup>†</sup>  
Paperback | \$16.00t | P511  
978-0-88146-553-2  
e-book available online



**The King Who Made Paper Flowers**  
A Novel

Terry Kay<sup>†</sup>  
Paperback | \$18.00t | P615  
978-0-88146-772-7  
e-book available online



**Song of the Vagabond Bird**  
A Novel

Terry Kay<sup>†</sup>  
Hardback | \$26.00t | H888  
978-0-88146-481-8  
e-book available online

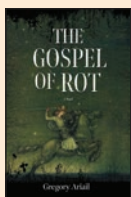


**Easter Weekend**  
A Novel

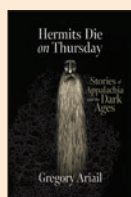
David Bottoms<sup>†</sup>  
Paperback | \$17.00t | P563  
978-0-88146-654-6

**Robert Gwaltney** works as a non-profit leader serving children with special needs. His debut novel, *The Cicada Tree*, received several awards including Georgia Author of the Year for First Novel and the Somerset Award for Literary Fiction. A life-long resident of the South, Gwaltney resides in Atlanta, Georgia. Learn more about him at [robertlgwaltney.com](http://robertlgwaltney.com).

#### TITLES OF INTEREST



**The Gospel of Rot**  
A Novel  
Gregory Ariail  
Paperback | \$20.00t | P646  
978-0-88146-848-9  
e-book available online



**Hermits Die on Thursday**  
Stories of Appalachia and the Dark Ages  
Gregory Ariail  
Paperback | \$20.00t | P721  
978-0-88146-977-6  
e-book available online



**Haunts on Black Mountain**  
A Haunted Short Story Collection  
Ann Hite  
Paperback | \$20.00t | P647  
978-0-88146-852-6  
e-book available online



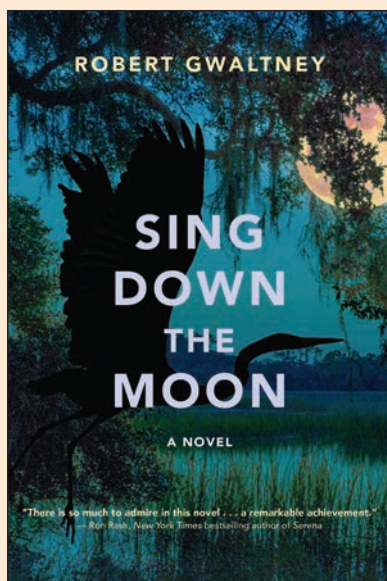
**Where the Souls Go**  
A Black Mountain Novel  
Ann Hite  
Paperback | \$17.00t | P513  
978-0-88146-538-9  
e-book available online



**Glimmerglass**  
A Novel  
Marly Youmans  
Hardback | \$24.00t | H896  
978-0-88146-491-7



**Maze of Blood**  
A Novel  
Marly Youmans  
Hardback | \$24.00t | H905  
978-0-88146-536-5



## SING DOWN THE MOON

A Novel

Robert Gwaltney

Also available in e-book format

**MARCH 2026**

Fiction

*“There is so much to admire in this novel...a remarkable achievement.”*  
—Ron Rash, New York Times bestselling author of *Serena*

SIXTEEN-YEAR-OLD LEONTYNE SKYE YEARNS TO ESCAPE GOOD HOPE, the remote Georgia coastal barrier island where she resides. Leontyne’s heritage is bleak. Tasked with tending Damascus, an ancient fig tree beguiling haints across the river with its wind chime song, Leontyne’s mother, Eulalee, disintegrates into tufts of hair, teeth, and memory. This affliction befalls all Skye women, a fatal consequence of distilling Redemption, an addictive drug made from the figs of Damascus imbued with the essence of haints.

Leontyne also tumbles apart, her memories and hand lost in a life-altering accident suffered two years back during an event known as Tribulation Day. Through unreliable recollections of her trusted friends the Longwood twins, Leontyne stitches a dubious understanding of who she was before she fell “the long-long ways.”

In the aftermath of Eulalee’s death, Leontyne is pressured by the Longwoods to render Redemption, continuing the legacy upon which Good Hope depends. When a handsome stranger arrives, relationships unravel as the Longwood twins battle to claim the stranger for themselves, derailing Leontyne’s plans to escape Good Hope.

Each moment Leontyne refuses Damascus, haints accumulate in menacing hordes. As Leontyne’s memories return, everything she believes to be true is called into question, including the devastating events of Tribulation Day. Leontyne soon realizes her birthright extends beyond the business of making Redemption, while the acceptance of her destiny as the Great Redeemer threatens her very existence. Her refusal: irrevocably shattering the fragile balance between the living and the dead.

**MARCH 2026 | FICTION**

6 x 9 | 336 pp. | Paperback, \$22.00t | 979-8-89736-009-3 | P734  
e-book | 979-8-89736-010-9



# COVERED BUTTONS

A Novel  
Stephanie Saunders

Also available in e-book format

**APRIL 2026**  
Historical Fiction



*"...an unforgettable work of historical fiction as timely today as it was ninety years ago."* —Ann Weisgarber, author of *The Promise*

**IN THE FOOTHILLS OF THE OZARKS, SEVENTEEN-YEAR-OLD THEA IS** stitched into a life she never chose.

After losing her mother and best friend, and with no path forward beyond marriage and motherhood, Thea finds unexpected kinship in her unconventional stepmother and her infamous grandmother. Between a world of books and embroidery, secrets stitched in buttons, and the quiet defiance of women's care networks, Thea begins to imagine a life beyond her small Arkansas town.

But when a violent betrayal shatters the illusion of love and tragedy strikes where a new family and a reunited friendship had just begun to grow, Thea must choose: remain bound by the threads of grief or step into a future of her own making.

Set in 1939 and inspired by the grassroots birth control movement in Arkansas, *Covered Buttons* is a story of friendship, resistance, and the quiet revolution of women who dare to dream differently.

"Stephanie Saunders pieces together the heartache, longing, humor, and strength of these resilient Ozark women with a deft hand. The result is a glorious patchwork quilt of a novel that both dazzles and warms you."

—Michelle Collins Anderson, *USA Today* bestselling author of *The Flower Sisters*

"*Covered Buttons* takes the parts of life that are often overlooked and focuses our attention on them, finding drama and significance in unexpected places."

—Steve Wiegenstein, author of *Scattered Lights*

**APRIL 2026 | HISTORICAL FICTION**

5.5 x 8.5 | 288 pp. | Paperback, \$20.00t | 979-8-89736-011-6 | P735  
e-book | 979-8-89736-012-3

Arkansas native **Stephanie Saunders** is associate professor of Spanish and director of the Honors Fellows Program at Lyon College. Author of *Fashion, Gender, and Agency in Latin American and Spanish Literature*, she is also coeditor of *The New Latin American Fashion Reader*.

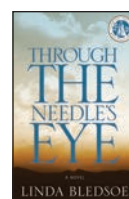
## TITLES OF INTEREST



**No Perfect Mothers**  
A Novel  
Karen Spears Zacharias  
Hardback | \$25.00t | H1042  
978-0-88146-919-6  
e-book available online



**The Deliverance of Barker McRae**  
A Novel  
Stacia Pelletier  
Hardback | \$27.00t | H1058  
978-0-88146-972-1  
e-book available online



**Through the Needle's Eye**  
A Novel  
Linda Bledsoe  
Paperback | \$17.00t | P581  
978-0-88146-702-4  
e-book available online



**Mother of Rain**  
A Novel  
Karen Spears Zacharias  
Paperback | \$17.00t | P469  
978-0-88146-448-1  
e-book available online



**Burdy**  
A Novel  
Karen Spears Zacharias  
Paperback | \$15.00t | P514  
978-0-88146-539-6  
e-book available online



**Christian Bend**  
A Novel  
Karen Spears Zacharias  
Paperback | \$17.00t | P548  
978-0-88146-623-2  
e-book available online

## FICTION



- Seven Islands of the Ocmulgee: River Stories** Gordon Johnston P666 | \$20.00t | 9780881468793 —e-book available online  
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## FICTION



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**The Poisoned Table: A Novel** Diane Michael Cantor P517 | \$18.00t | 9780881465464 —e-book available online

## FICTION/ESSAYS



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## POETRY



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## POETRY



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## POETRY



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**Death, and the Day's Light: Poems** James Dickey†; edited by Gordon Van Ness H899 | \$25.00t | 9780881465198

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**Eden's Last Horizon: Poems for the Earth** Philip Lee Williams P641 | \$24.00t | 9780881468335

**The Color of All Things: 99 Love Poems** Philip Lee Williams P503 | \$18.00t | 9780881465235

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**The Disappearing Act: Poems** Sara Pirkle P561 | \$16.00t | 9780881466522

**Carnival Life: Poems** Lesley Dauer P528 | \$17.00t | 9780881465716

North Carolina native **Sarah Carey** grew up in Florida and holds an MA in English with a concentration in Creative Writing from Florida State University. Her career spans journalism and veterinary medical communications at the University of Florida. Carey is the author of *The Grief Committee Minutes* and two chapbooks. Learn more about her at [SarahKCarey.com](http://SarahKCarey.com).

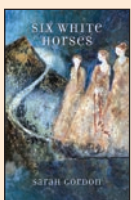
## TITLES OF INTEREST

**Vert**  
Poems

Catherine Staples  
Paperback | \$20.00t | P690  
978-0-88146-921-9

**The Way the Moon**  
Poems

Holly Haworth  
Paperback | \$20.00t | P707  
978-0-88146-944-8

**Six White Horses**  
Poems

Sarah Gordon  
Paperback | \$20.00t | P712  
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**The Lost Thing**  
Poems

Sarah Gordon  
Paperback | \$17.00t | P638  
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**Your Autobiography**  
Poems

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

**I Have Told You and Told You**  
Poems

Elizabeth Cox  
Paperback | \$18.00t | P468  
978-0-88146-447-4

**BLOODSTREAM**

Poems

Sarah Carey

**FEBRUARY 2026**

Poetry

*“...these poems ponder lineage, the who and how of one woman's becoming.” —Sally Rosen Kindred, author of Where the Wolf*

**SARAH CAREY'S SECOND FULL-LENGTH POETRY COLLECTION TRACES THE** arterial pathways of the poet's past, mapping the vital currents that pulse between memory, perception, and identity. Anchored in place yet mindful of time's fluidity, the poems in *Bloodstream* traverse Carey's Southern roots in Florida and North Carolina, moving through Alaska and beyond as the poet cycles between past and present, faith and doubt, while exploring the power of language to illuminate such contrasts.

The poems elegize lost loved ones, including pets, which serve as a lens through which to examine attachment, loss, and unconditional love. Carey's verses serve as containers: rooms within rooms housing shape-shifting selves and lives in transition. Simultaneously, the poet reflects on broader natural ecosystems, including histories of specific flora and fauna, and her place within them. Whether investigating pigment structures, the nature of desire, or family heritage, Carey consistently contemplates language itself, asserting poetry's essential role in witnessing life's complexities.

The work offers unexpected perspectives, from palm trees reflecting on evolution to encounters with Galapagos terrain, capturing both physical and existential landscapes. At its core lies an exploration of how perception shapes consciousness and memory. Carey explores color science, revisits childhood memories, reimagines her prenatal self, and reflects on childlessness and the personas she has embodied throughout her lifetime.

Throughout *Bloodstream*, Carey resurrects ancestors while examining her physical and emotional inheritance, probing the power of words, the weight of silence, and the corporeal rhythms of memories coloring past, present, and future.

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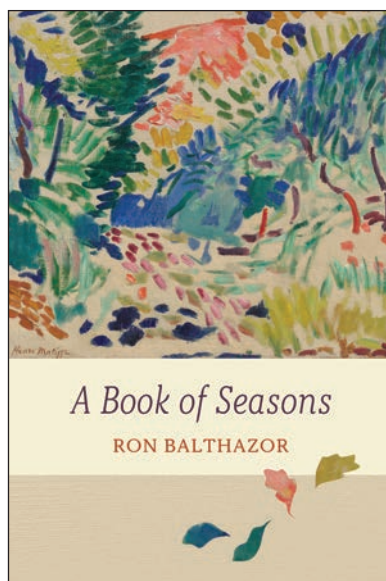


# A BOOK OF SEASONS

Ron Balthazor

MAY 2026

Nature/Essays



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Ron Balthazor's close observation of the inhabitants of the land—from earthworms to armadillos, honey bees to black vultures, pea seedlings to soaring oaks—nurtures curiosity and wonder that invite even closer concentration and contemplation. These meditations on the natural world (both cultivated and wild) all, ultimately, point toward connection: between writers ancient and modern, humans and nonhumans, elemental forces and our beating hearts.

Balthazor's ideas and stories might be funny or solemn, sour or sweet, but all are keenly crafted and disclose his deep interest in the connections hidden in the histories of words themselves.

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**Ron Balthazor** is retired from the faculty of the University of Georgia, where he was an award-winning teacher of Composition and Environmental Literature. When not playing drums with his jazz band, Balthazor is happiest when marking the seasons on the ten acres he tends.

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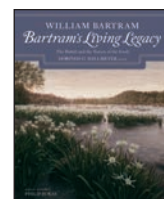
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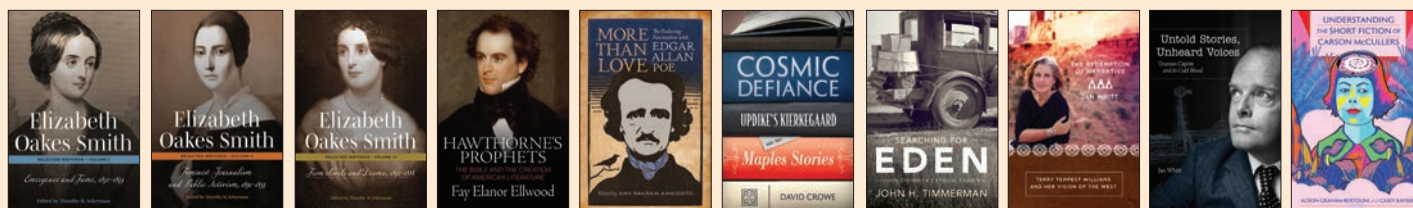
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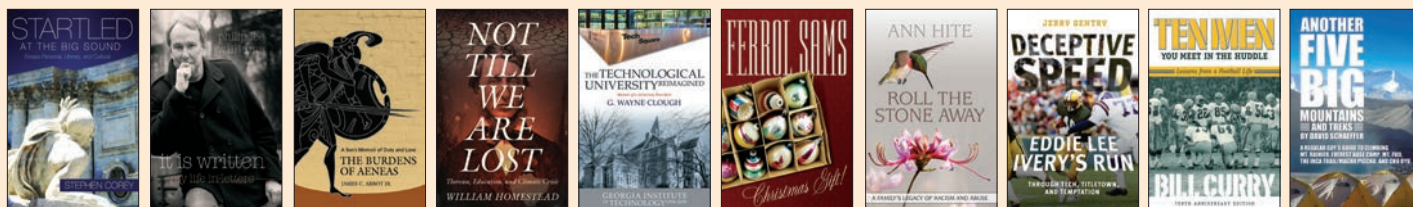
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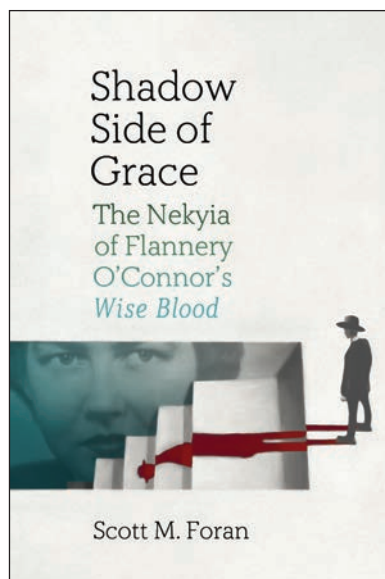
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# SHADOW SIDE OF GRACE

The Nekyia of Flannery O'Connor's  
*Wise Blood*  
Scott M. Foran

**MAY 2026**  
Literary Criticism



**Scott M. Foran** is associate professor of English at Montreat College in North Carolina and serves as the editor of the Flannery O'Connor Society Newsletter. He holds an MA in English, an MA in Mythological Studies, and a PhD in Mythological Studies with an emphasis in Depth Psychology.

*A look at Flannery O'Connor's debut novel—published in 1952 after her health crisis and return to Milledgeville, Georgia*

**FLANNERY O'CONNOR'S *WISE BLOOD* IS A TEXT FULL OF RICH SYMBOLISM**, a metaphoric landscape which is best understood using an integration of literary and depth psychological hermeneutics. Applying an anagogical framework to the novel, an interpretive approach meant to reveal spiritual meaning, makes it possible to see through the world of O'Connor's Taulkinham, the fictional setting for the novel, to that of the biblical. Once the parallel between the modern and the mythic is established, the interpretation is further enhanced by identifying the novel as a *nekyia*, a descent to the realm of the dead. This descent can be seen as an inner descent into the unconscious, a concept developed by Sigmund Freud, C.G. Jung, James Hillman, and Evans Lansing Smith.

The *nekyia* is symbolically portrayed in Hazel Motes's travels throughout the city. In addition to the symbolism of the story itself, the process of writing *Wise Blood* can be seen as O'Connor's personal *nekyia*. Lupus hospitalized the young author before she was able to complete the first draft of the novel. This unexpected and devastating reminder of mortality forced O'Connor to confront her own fears and come to terms with the reality of the disease that would kill her twelve years after the publication of *Wise Blood*.

"*The Shadow Side of Grace* offers readers the most thorough and insightful overview of *Wise Blood* in some time, and it does so by weaving together meticulous close reading with biographical insights and mythological intersections as diffuse and eclectic as O'Connor's own reading habits." —*Matt Bryant Cheney*, assistant professor of English and editor of the *Flannery O'Connor Review*, Georgia College & State University

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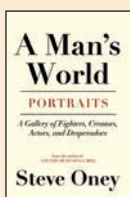
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**Jeffrey Meyers**, a fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, is the author of fifty-eight books of biography, art, film, and literary criticism. His works have been translated into fourteen languages and published on six continents. He has received a grant from the Guggenheim Foundation and an Award in Literature from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. In 2012 Meyers gave the Seymour Lectures in Biography at the National Libraries of Australia.

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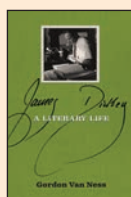
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# THE BIOGRAPHER'S QUEST

Jeffrey Meyers

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**THE BIOGRAPHER'S QUEST, BASED ON FIFTY YEARS OF EXPERIENCE**, describes how biographies are written. It reveals the excitement of the hunt and the attempt to probe the mystery of artistic creation. The life must interest readers and secure a publisher. Ideally, it should have a subject whose appeal will sustain you for several years, who is still relevant and influential, has unpublished material available in archives, family and friends to interview, and no recent competing biography. Using one's knowledge and skill to find the essential information is one of the keenest pleasures of biography.

This book explains how life-writers do archival research, find new sources, and experience the thrill of constant discoveries; it also discusses how to conduct interviews by establishing confidence, asking the right questions, and persuading people to reveal what they know. Meyers describes how to create a chronology, interpret often conflicting written and spoken evidence, organize material into a meaningful pattern, and show how the author's life illuminates his work.

Research can lead to some extraordinary encounters with distinguished informants. There can also be some extreme contrasts: between the collector who refused to show the only copy of Somerset Maugham's unpublished autobiography and shouted, "I curse the day you ever heard my name," to the daughter of Robert Frost's lover who was eager to reveal her secrets and declared, "I've been waiting all my life for you to come."

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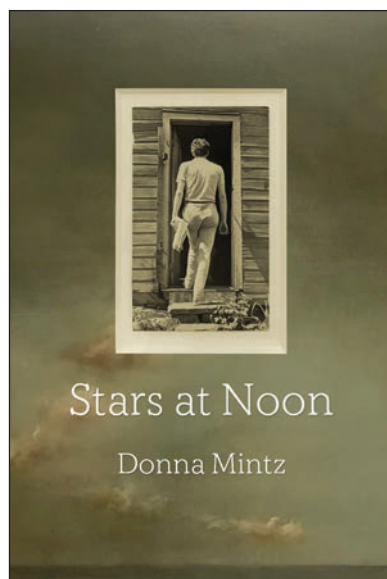
# STARS AT NOON

Donna Mintz

Also available in e-book format

**APRIL 2026**

*Essays/Memoir*



**Donna Mintz** is a visual artist whose work is held in public institutions and private collections internationally. Her essays and reviews have appeared in *Sculpture* magazine, the *Sewanee Review*, *SWING*, *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, and the online arts journals *Burnaway* and *ArtsATL*. *Stars at Noon* is her first book. Learn more at [donnajmintz.com](http://donnajmintz.com).

*"To those who in all times have sought truth and who have told it in their art or in their living..." —James Agee, "Dedication"*

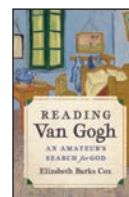
**WEAVING ESSAY, MEMOIR, AND NATURAL HISTORY WITH BIOGRAPHY,** *Stars at Noon* is one artist's pilgrimage through a book and a love letter to its author, James Agee, whose untimely death becomes the thread connecting it all.

We begin in the landscape of the American South, from the search for a lost grave on the author's Middle Georgia farm, to the hazy blue mysteries of the Cumberland Plateau in Agee's native Tennessee, and on to the red clay hills of Hale County, Alabama, where one hot summer in 1936, Agee found the subject of *Let Us Now Praise Famous Men*, his 1941 masterwork and collaboration with photographer Walker Evans that would change his life.

Through seamless storytelling via wanderings in such disparate settings as *The Lightning Field*, artist Walter De Maria's 1977 installation on the remote High Plains desert of New Mexico, and the intimate streets of Greenwich Village in New York City, Agee's home for most of his adult life, *Stars at Noon* delivers a meditation on art and beauty, themes that have informed the author's visual artmaking for more than thirty years, and a paean to time and silence and what is found—and lost—in both.

Mintz's ultimate realization of what is knowable and what will forever remain hidden, abiding but invisible as the stars at noon, makes the most personal of journeys, its mysteries and its ultimate destination, into a story of universal meaning.

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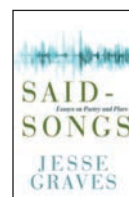
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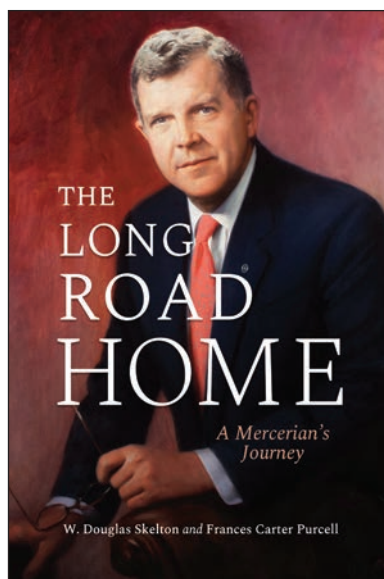
# THE LONG ROAD HOME

A Mercerian's Journey

W. Douglas Skelton  
and Frances Carter Purcell

APRIL 2026

Memoir



*Celebrating a legacy of mentorship, insight, and institutional impact in healthcare, medicine, and education*

THE STORIES OF W. DOUGLAS SKELTON'S LIFE ARE A TESTAMENT TO THE power of hard work, thoughtfulness, and service. A physician, educator, and public health visionary, Skelton shaped institutions and inspired generations not through grand gestures but through steadfast commitment and quiet authority. This book traces his journey from early involvement in health and medicine to transformative leadership roles, including his tenure as director of the Georgia Department of Human Resources and dean of the Mercer University School of Medicine.

Skelton's legacy is woven through the lives of those he mentored. He championed rural health access, built collaborative systems, and empowered others to lead with kindness and clarity. His influence extended beyond policy and programs; it lived in the way he listened, the way he taught, and the way he made others feel seen. Whether navigating political complexities or guiding young physicians, he remained grounded in purpose and principle.

Through the stories he told he guided colleagues, students, and friends. This book honors Skelton not only as a public servant but as a witty and charming colleague. Interwoven through it all is his love of his wife, Jane, who adds warmth and grace to every chapter of his life. Together, they cultivated community, resilience, and joy.

In chronicling his tales, this narrative preserves more than history; it celebrates a legacy of mentorship, insight, and institutional impact. Skelton's stories remind us that leadership is not about spotlight but about stewardship and finding time for those moments of laughter amidst the storms. His life continues to guide those who carry forward the work of healing, teaching, and building systems that serve.

APRIL 2026 | MEMOIR

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From shaping the state's public health landscape as Georgia's Department of Health Commissioner to transforming medical education as dean of Mercer University's School of Medicine, **W. Douglas Skelton, MD**, has mentored generations of physicians and championed community-based care with strategic vision and enduring commitment to the people of Georgia.

**Frances Carter Purcell, PhD**, a Mercer alumna and lifelong Bear, spent nearly twenty years on the faculty of Mercer University School of Medicine before serving as assistant dean for Curriculum at the Medical College of Georgia. Since her retirement, she has devoted her time to mentoring and advancing medical education leadership.

## TITLES OF INTEREST



**The History of the Mercer University School of Medicine, 1965-2007**

Martin L. Dalton†

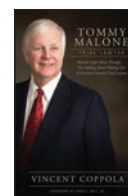
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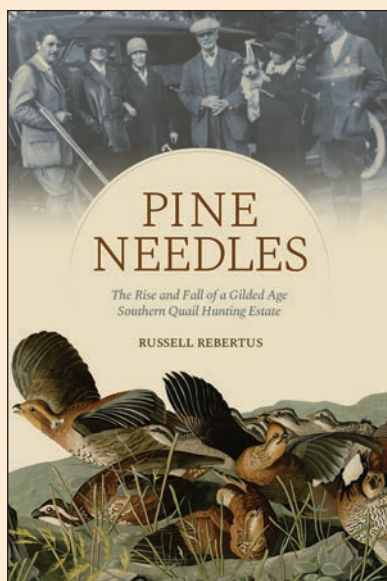
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**Russell Rebertus** earned degrees in wildlife management and forestry, and he holds a PhD in soil science and geology from North Carolina State University. He has been a soil surveyor for the State of North Carolina, a professor of pedology and soil mineralogy, and for twenty years he ran his own environmental consulting business. A kayak adventurer and retired bird hunter, Rebertus lives on the Middle Peninsula of Virginia.



## PINE NEEDLES

The Rise and Fall of a Gilded Age  
Southern Quail Hunting Estate

*Russell Rebertus*

**MAY 2026**

*History*

*A detailed history of this early twentieth-century North Carolina Piedmont hunting lodge and its founders*

### TITLES OF INTEREST



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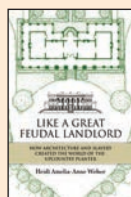
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**THE SIXTY-YEAR PERIOD FOLLOWING THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR WAS A** time of great wealth accumulation and materialistic excess. It was also a time of widespread poverty and growing economic inequality. America became dominated by men of outsized fortunes, and the country developed an aristocracy of the privileged.

In 1873 Mark Twain wrote *The Gilded Age: A Tale of Today*, satirizing post-Civil War greed and political corruption in America. The title soon became synonymous with graft, materialism, and corruption in public life, and the name was adopted for the nascent era in which Twain's book was published. Some new moguls established opulent hunting lodges in the South and leased tens of thousands of acres for quail hunting in the depressed Southern economy.

This book examines the reasons for the new wealth and its unequal distribution, why quail were the preferred quarry of Gilded Age barons, what attracted the hunting moguls to the North Carolina Piedmont, what became of them and their hunting estates, and how technology produced changes that transformed the American landscape, causing the collapse of quail populations once thought limitless.

Gilded Age hunting lodges are explored, specifically the lodges in and near Guilford County, North Carolina, the locus of Piedmont lodges; their founding, demise, and present status; and how the once rural areas with abundant quail have transformed into urban and suburban expanses without quail.

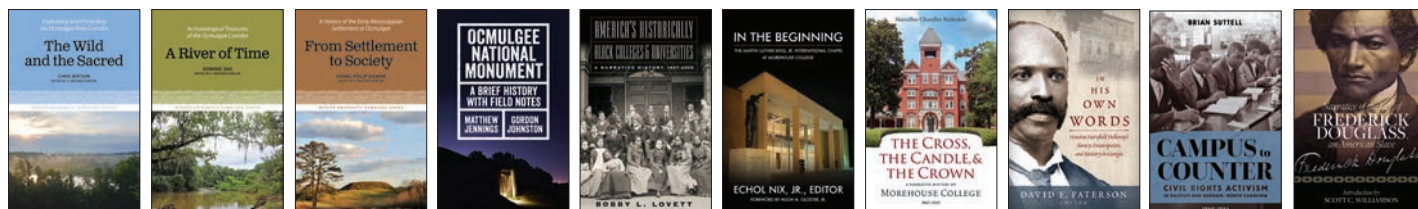
The Pine Needles lodge, established in 1912, is examined in detail with novel stories based on records, memorabilia, and recollections of descendants of those involved in the establishment and management of the lodge.

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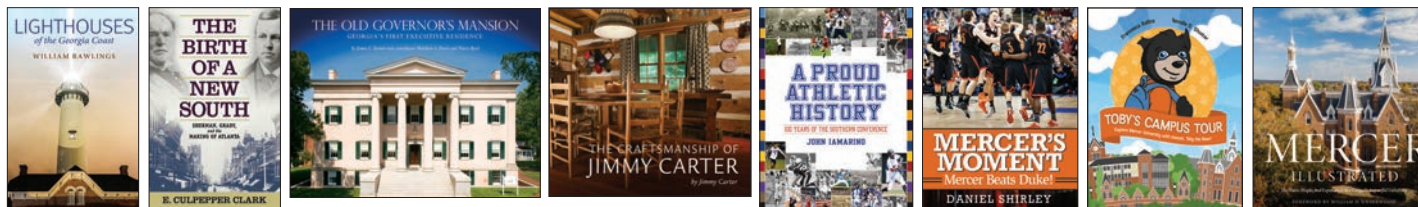
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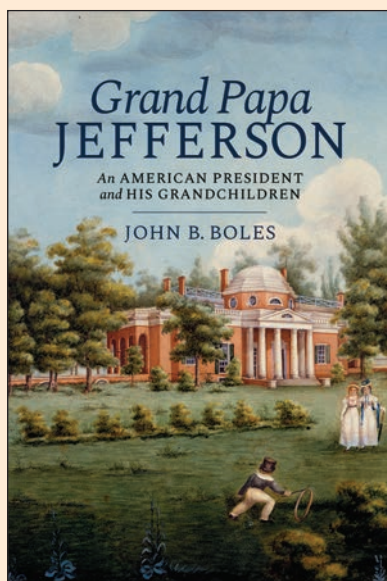
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**John B. Boles** is the William P. Hobby Professor Emeritus of History at Rice University, former editor of the *Journal of Southern History* (1983–2013), a former president of the Southern Historical Association (2016–2017), and author, among other books, of *Jefferson: Architect of American Liberty* and *Seven Virginians: The Men Who Shaped Our Republic*.



## GRAND PAPA JEFFERSON

An American President and His Grandchildren

John B. Boles

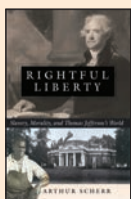
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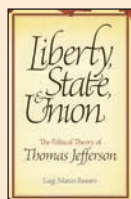
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**KNOWN AS A RENAISSANCE MAN, THOMAS JEFFERSON ACROSS THE SPAN OF** his life excelled in a variety of fields, from politics to architecture to historical linguistics. Here he is depicted in his domestic role as the father of six White children (two of whom lived to adulthood); the grandfather of twelve White grandchildren; and the father of five Black children by Sally Hemings (four of whom lived to adulthood).

In 1782, Jefferson's wife Martha Skelton Wayles died after they had lived what he called "ten years in unchequered happiness." Following her death, he attempted to perform both parental roles for his two surviving daughters.

For more than three decades Jefferson developed an extraordinarily close relationship with his grandchildren. Participating intimately in every aspect of their childhood, he played games with them and gave life advice by engaging them in deep conversation and revealing correspondence through the exchange of hundreds of letters. Unfortunately, this rich record of written evidence does not exist for his shadow Black family.

The grandchildren and their mothers dined at the table with Jefferson and his guests, dazzling visitors with their conversational skills. They lived privileged lives and were provided opportunities for learning few others received, as Jefferson facilitated their education.

His involvement with his Black children was much more restricted, although they were treated quite differently from other enslaved children, and he ultimately freed them. Jefferson knew that slavery was immoral and spoke against it, but like most Whites of his time and region, he failed to see a way to escape his dilemma while supporting his White family.

**APRIL 2026 | HISTORY**

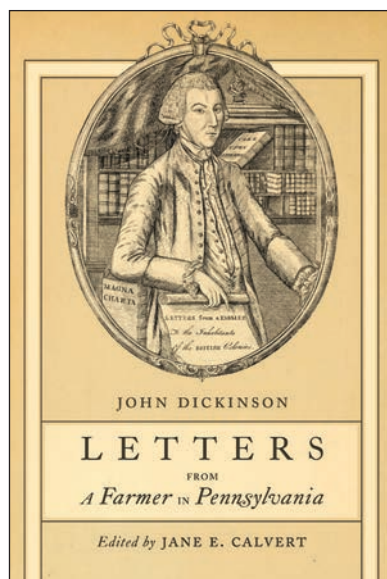
6 x 9 | 256 pp. | Hardback, \$35.00t | 979-8-89736-005-5 | H1060 | Bibliography | Index | Illustrations  
e-book | 979-8-89736-006-2



# LETTERS FROM A FARMER IN PENNSYLVANIA

*John Dickinson*<sup>†</sup>;  
edited by *Jane E. Calvert*

**MARCH 2026**  
*History*



**Jane E. Calvert** is director and chief editor of The John Dickinson Writings Project. She received her PhD from the University of Chicago. Calvert's works include *Quaker Constitutionalism and the Political Thought of John Dickinson*, *The Complete Writings and Selected Correspondence of John Dickinson*, and the prize-winning *Penman of the Founding: A Biography of John Dickinson*.

*This new edition is the first ever annotated by a team of experts on Dickinson—offering key information and historical context*

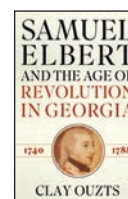
**JOHN DICKINSON'S *LETTERS FROM A FARMER IN PENNSYLVANIA* (1767–1768)** is one of the most consequential documents in American history. Written in response to Great Britain's unjust taxation policy, these twelve letters were first published serially in the newspapers and then in pamphlet form in multiple editions in several countries.

With clear and compelling language directed to ordinary readers, the letters educated the colonists about their rights, galvanized them to resist Britain using only peaceful means, and implanted in them a sense of national unity and a distinct American identity. Dickinson drew on his training and experience as a lawyer, his connection to the land as a plantation owner, and his Quaker upbringing to discuss legal precedent, patriotism, and nonviolent resistance in eloquent and rousing terms.

The response to the *Farmer's Letters* was immediate and overwhelming. Soon they were known around the Atlantic world, making the Pennsylvania Farmer, as Dickinson was now known, America's first celebrity and the spokesman for the American cause. Although the *Farmer's Letters* advocated reconciliation, not revolution, they prepared Americans to think of themselves as an independent people.

Long after Dickinson's death, the Farmer remained a patriotic icon. His message of patriotism, unity, and peaceful resistance continues to resonate with modern readers. This new edition of *Letters from a Farmer in Pennsylvania* is the first republication in a quarter century and the first ever annotated by a team of experts on Dickinson, offering key information and historical context to make this patriot text fully accessible.

## TITLES OF INTEREST

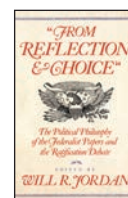


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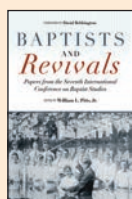
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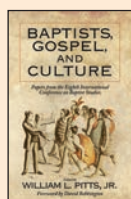
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**William L. Pitts, Jr.** is professor emeritus of Religion at Baylor University where he taught the History of Christianity and served as director of Graduate Studies. He edited the journals *Texas Baptist History* and *Baptist History and Heritage*. Pitts is author/editor of several books including *The Reception of Rauschenbusch*.

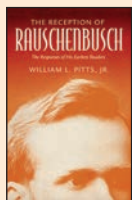
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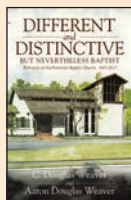
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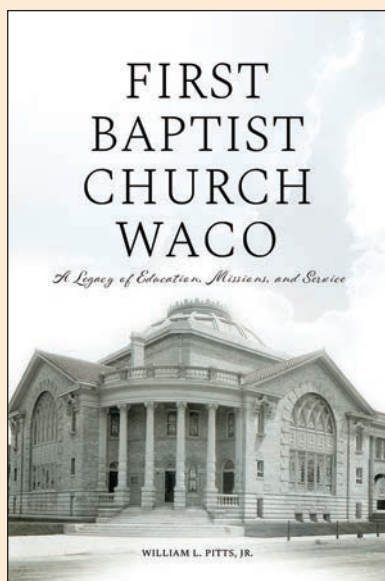
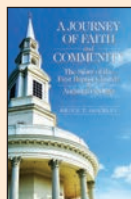


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## FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH WACO

A Legacy of Education, Missions,  
and Service

William L. Pitts, Jr.

**MAY 2026**

*Baptist History*

*A general history of this significant Texas church and its impact on the Waco community and throughout the world*

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, WACO, TEXAS, WHICH CELEBRATES ITS 175TH** anniversary in 2026, is a moderate congregation of diverse social, economic, educational, and religious backgrounds. This book narrates key themes in the rich history of the church, which has been deeply affected by successive cultural contexts, including slavery, wars, the Depression, the Civil Rights movement, denominational conflicts, and secularization.

Organized in 1851, the church has offered weekly worship in central Texas since that time. Early pastors were significant denominational leaders. B. H. Carroll led Texas Baptists to form a single convention and successfully argued for supporting SBC Sunday School and Mission Boards. J.M. Dawson led the Texas \$75 Million Campaign, chaired the SBC Peace Committee, and led Baptists United in the effort to assure religious liberty, a key Baptist principle.

The church has been deeply devoted to education, missions, and benevolence. In addition to pioneering Sunday School in Texas it has served as the original home of Live Oak Classical School, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and George W. Truett Seminary. The church has benefitted enormously from its connections with Baylor University.

FBC Waco has nurtured scores of missionaries, including Luther and Anne Bagby who planted Baptist work in Brazil. For decades the church has hosted Hispanic, Native American, Chinese, and Korean Baptist congregations. Today missions and benevolence intersect as the church serves immigrants, prisoners, and other disadvantaged people. Despite worries over finances and conflicting opinions in every generation, dedicated members and capable pastors have collaborated to sustain this influential church in maintaining a lasting legacy.

**MAY 2026 | BAPTIST HISTORY**

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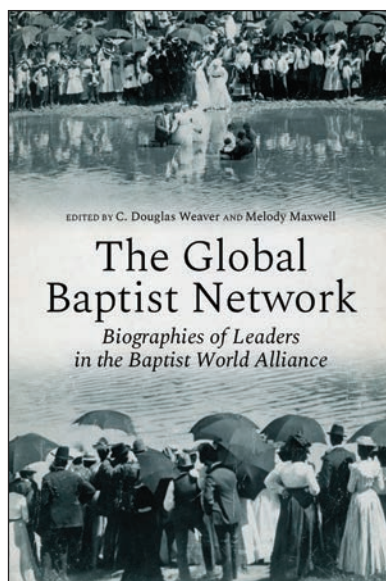
6 x 9 | 408 pp. | Hardback, \$45.00t | 979-8-89736-030-7 | H1063 | Bibliography | Index | Illustrations



# THE GLOBAL BAPTIST NETWORK

Biographies of Leaders in the  
Baptist World Alliance  
edited by C. Douglas Weaver  
and Melody Maxwell

**MAY 2026**  
*Baptist History*



*A useful introduction to key historical leaders from around the Baptist world—some profiled for the first time in this volume*

IN 2025, THE BAPTIST WORLD ALLIANCE (BWA) REPORTED THAT IT WAS a fellowship of 266 Baptist conventions and unions from 134 countries and territories across the globe. These diverse Baptist groups included 51 million baptized believers in 176,000 churches. Such statistical growth suggests a rich 120-year history from the BWA's origin in 1905, when Baptists counted 6.2 million members. Leaders from around the globe have guided the BWA in creative and diverse ways throughout this history.

This volume profiles twenty-seven selected Baptist international leaders from across the world, highlighting BWA Women's leaders as well as the male leaders of the broader BWA. These individuals have steered the course of the BWA throughout its remarkable history. To date, no woman has served as president or general secretary of the BWA, although women have assumed various leadership roles in the organization. Both men and women are leaders in the global Baptist story.

In recent years, the internationalization of the BWA has been increasingly emphasized. Some observers caution that the globalizing process was slow, but the BWA has become more diverse culturally, ethnically, and geographically.

This biographical narrative, which includes several leaders not previously profiled elsewhere, demonstrates the diversity of global Baptists while also revealing that the BWA has been largely led by men from the Global North. Readers may draw both inspiration and caution from the stories of the individuals who have led the BWA, lessons of history to better understand the past and shape the future.

C. Douglas Weaver is the Barbara Jo Beard Driskell Professor in Historical Studies and serves as chair of the department of Religion at Baylor University. His publications include *In Search of the New Testament Church: The Baptist Story* and *Baptists and the Holy Spirit*.

Melody Maxwell serves as the Hannah Maria Norris Professor of World Christian History and Women in Ministry at Acadia Divinity College in Wolfville, Nova Scotia. She also directs the Acadia Centre for Baptist and Anabaptist Studies and the International Conference on Baptist Studies.

## TITLES OF INTEREST



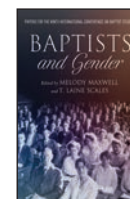
**\*In Search of the New Testament Church**

The Baptist Story  
C. Douglas Weaver

Paperback | \$23.00t | P346  
978-0-88146-105-3

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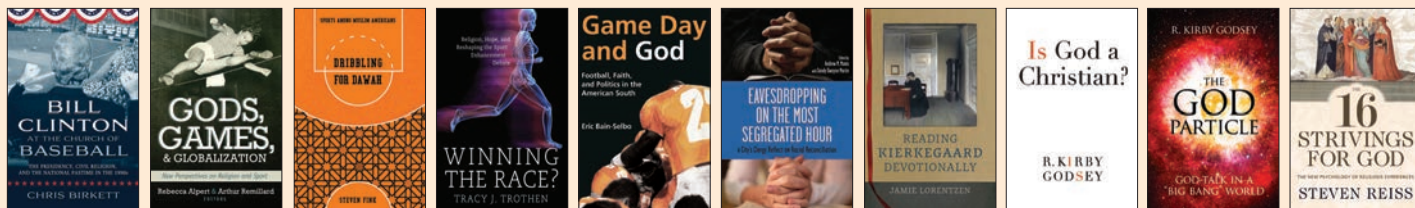
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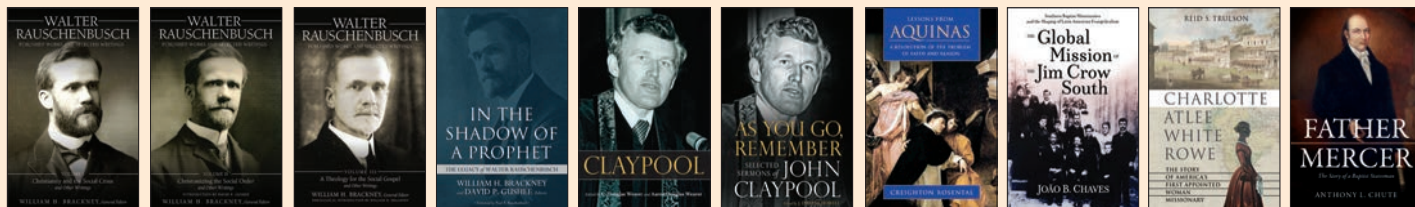
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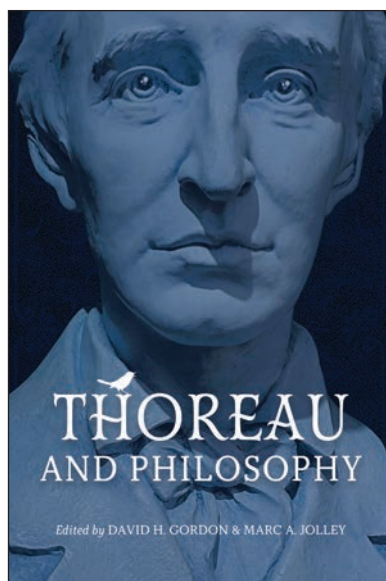
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# THOREAU AND PHILOSOPHY

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**JUNE 2026**  
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*Twelve essays exploring the multifaceted ways in which Thoreau's thought could be considered philosophical*

A GREAT AMOUNT OF INK HAS BEEN SPILLED ATTEMPTING TO UNDERSTAND and make sense of Henry David Thoreau. Some people dismiss Thoreau as a mere Romantic nature poet, writer of travel narratives, or performance artist who commandeered huckleberry parties. But Thoreau is much more substantial than that. Many find him inspiring as a social and political critic, an activist for the cause of freedom. Others pick up on one of the many scientific hats he wore, as a forest ecologist, botanist, geologist, hydrologist, engineer, or land surveyor. Thoreau is also considered a seminal thinker in the environmental movement. But Thoreau is most often taught in English and American Literature classes, not in philosophy classes.

The purpose of the essays in this anthology is to explore the multifaceted ways in which Thoreau's thought could be considered philosophical. He wanted to create a distinctive American identity that sought to venerate nature by trying to overcome our anthropocentric bias and place the value of wild spaces before the utilitarian needs of human civilization. He sought to reform not only misguided political practices but also a materialistic culture increasingly centered on consumerism, social status, and the domination of nature.

A central theme of these essays is that there is much philosophical value in Thoreau and that without a proper understanding of philosophy, one cannot fully appreciate the depth of his thought. It is the aim of this anthology to help the reader do just that.

Contributors include Philip Cafaro, William Homestead, Brent Ranalli, Paul Muench, Michael Jonik, Alfred Tauber, Lydia Willsky-Ciullo, Krishnan Venkatesh, Henrik Otterberg, Drew Lanham, David H. Gordon, and Marc A. Jolley.

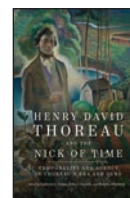
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**David H. Gordon** is associate teaching professor of Philosophy at Loyola University Maryland. He serves on the board of the Thoreau Society and is the author of *The Implications of Evolution for Metaphysics: Theism, Idealism, and Naturalism*.

**Marc A. Jolley** is director of Mercer University Press and senior lecturer in Philosophy and Great Books at Mercer University. He serves on the board of the Thoreau Society and is the editor of three essay collections, notably *Why Kierkegaard Matters*.

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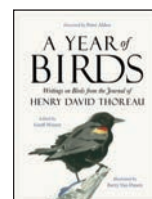
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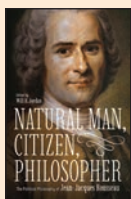
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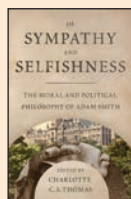
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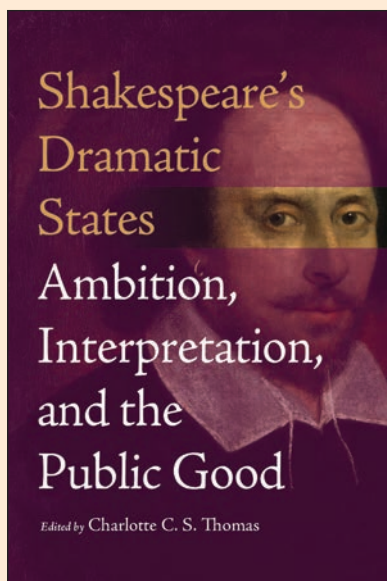
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Shakespeare makes a “lively and lasting” impression on all who appeal to him for an understanding of human things. What is the public good? How can we know it? How can we pursue it? What does it mean for our lives, individually and collectively? How does Shakespeare lead us into and through these inquiries in his plays, and what pitfalls must we watch out for when we read his works with questions such as these in mind?

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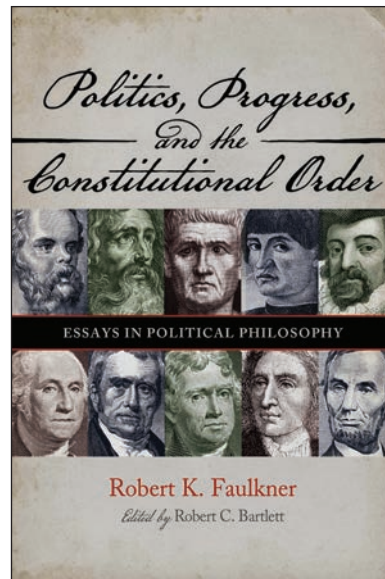


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Essays in Political Philosophy

Robert K. Faulkner<sup>†</sup>;  
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Those who knew Robert Faulkner will find in these pages reminders of his characteristic seriousness of purpose, his erudition, and, not infrequently, his graceful wit. Those encountering him here for the first time will find a sure guide to the theoretical questions that arise out of the conduct of political life. Such readers may also come to understand the debt of gratitude Robert Faulkner's many students have incurred.

Although it is unlikely that a single volume could convey the full breadth of Faulkner's deep learning and sober judgment, it is to be hoped that the present collection of his essays may nonetheless do justice to the scholarship of the man it means to honor.

**Robert K. Faulkner** (1934–2023) was professor of Political Philosophy at Boston College for more than four decades, where he influenced generations of students. His books include *The Jurisprudence of John Marshall*; *Richard Hooker and the Politics of a Christian England*; *Francis Bacon and the Project of Progress*; and *The Case for Greatness: Honorable Ambition and Its Critics*.

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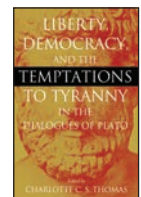
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**Matthew Wells** is a Lyceum Visiting Scholar at Clemson University. He holds PhD and MA degrees in Political Science from Baylor University and a BA in Philosophy, Religious Studies, and French from Central College.

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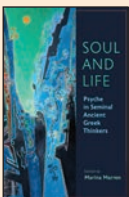
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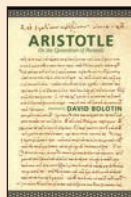
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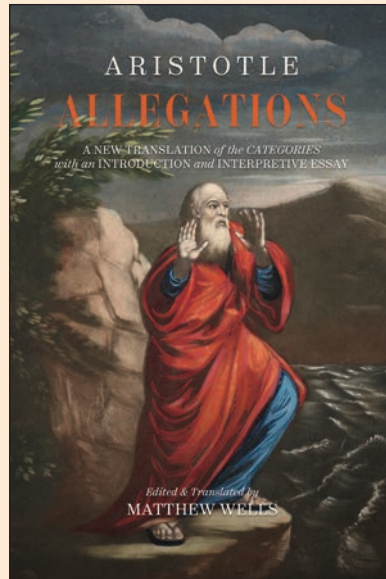
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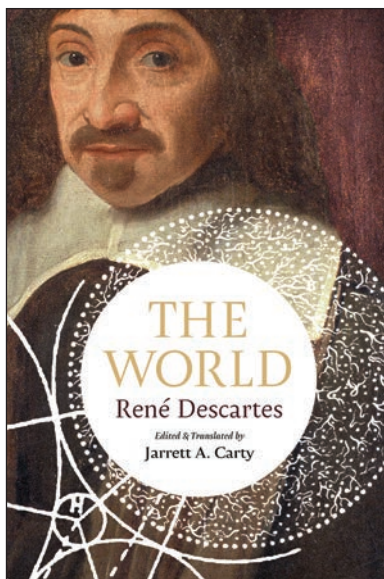
# THE WORLD

René Descartes;

edited and translated by Jarrett A. Carty

**MARCH 2026**

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*A new translation of one of the boldest texts of the  
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**THE WORLD WAS ONE OF THE MOST AMBITIOUS TREATISES THAT** René Descartes ever undertook; it was also brilliantly original, influential, and controversial. *The World* offered a new mechanistic theory of the entire universe, from the smallest particles to the stars and planets. Descartes argued that all bodies were just inert matter in motion, moved only by contact with other bodies, and nothing more. In one short treatise, Descartes dispensed with the natural philosophy of Aristotle and the universities. Yet, despite its brilliant originality, *The World* has largely been forgotten.

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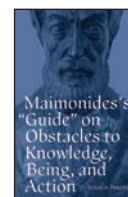


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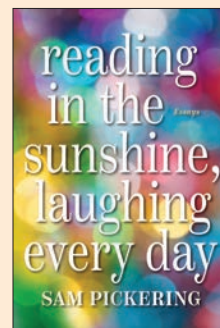
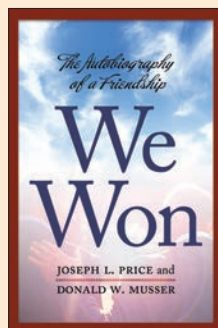
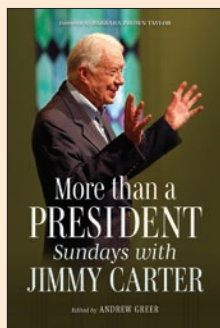
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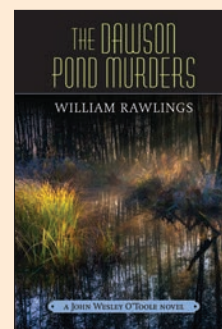
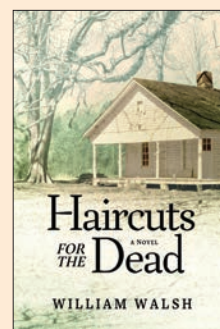
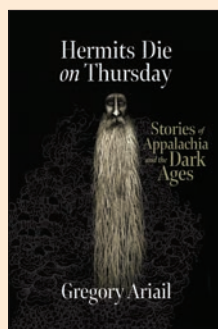
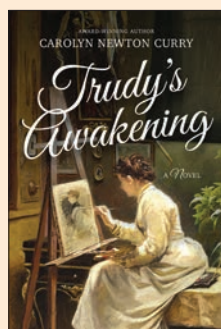
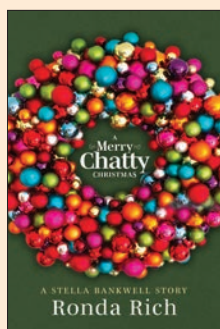
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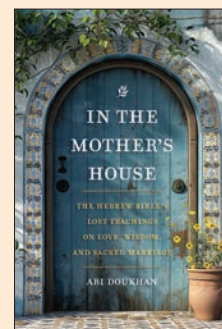
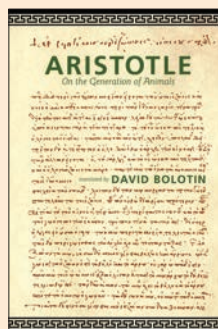
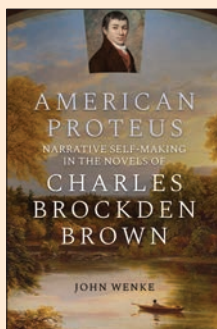
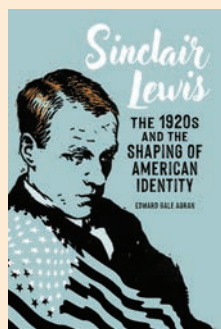
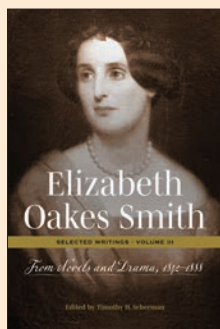
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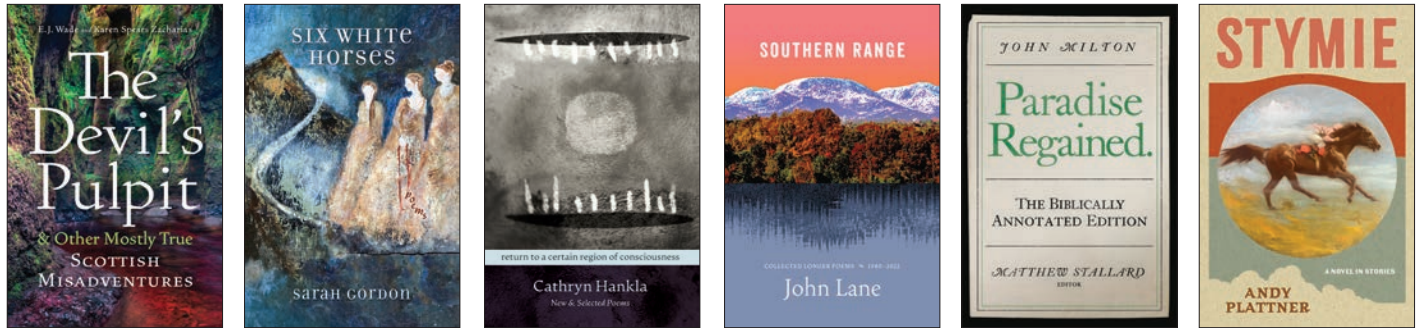
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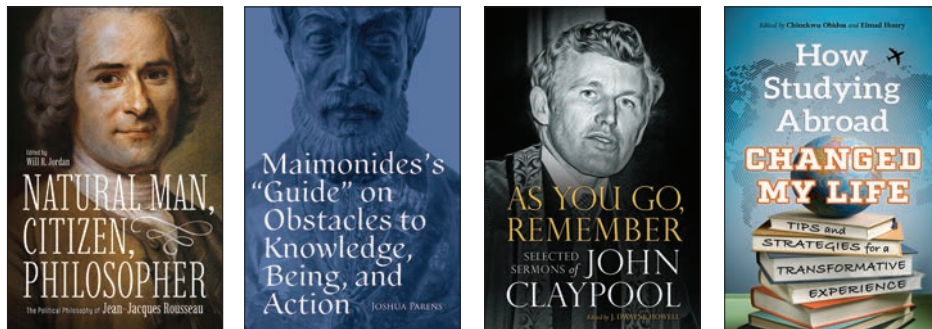
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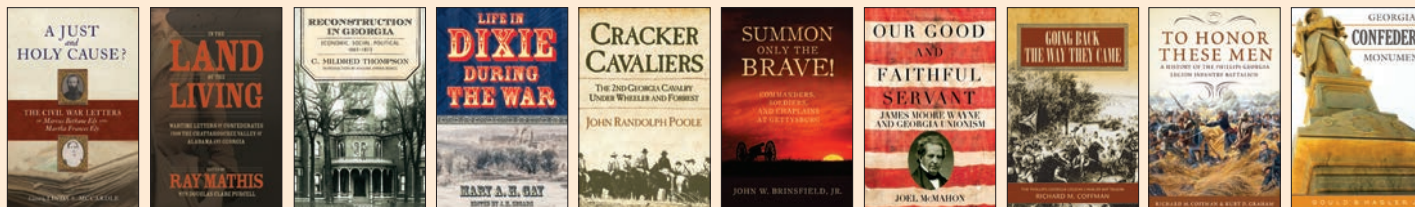
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