

Book Reviews

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Book Review Editor

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Buckley, Carol. *Just for Elephants*. Gardiner, Maine: Tilbury House, 2006. ISBN : 0884482833. 32 pages.

Carol Buckley, executive director and co-founder of the Elephant Sanctuary in Hohenwald, TN, has penned a delightful picture book about a place that is "just for elephants" and its fascinating residents. She co-founded the nation's first refuge for sick, needy, and old elephants in 1995. Carol helps to care for the animals, make arrangements for new arrivals, and organize educational programs. She believes that educating school children and adults alike, is a benefit to elephants everywhere.

Just for Elephants is a captivating, yet simple, story of an elephant named Shirley who worked in the circus in her youth and then lived as the lone elephant at a zoo in Louisiana. Then the day came for her to leave the zoo and go to a place just for elephants. It was a big surprise to the staff, and to Shirley, that she recognized another elephant, Jenny. They greeted each other with great joy and excitement because it turned out that Jenny was a baby in a circus that Shirley worked in several years ago. Elephants do remember! Jenny took Shirley under her wing by helping her settle into her new environment and meet her new family. The story is touching and chock full of interesting elephants facts.

Elephants are emotional animals just like us humans. Some tribes in Africa say that elephants are the only animals with a soul. This book certainly supports that idea. Children will easily relate to Shirley because she was scared her first day at the sanctuary, just like they're scared when starting a new school. We can learn about our own emotions and feelings from these gentle giants.

The text on each page is accompanied by photographs of Shirley, Jenny, and their family. Each photo captures the emotion or information written on each page. The story draws the reader into the pictures and pictures draw the reader into the story, a good marriage of text and illustration.

The book works well as a read-aloud as well as when read to oneself. *Just for Elephants* is recommended for school and public libraries as well as academic libraries with youth collections

Lara Beth Lehman, Curriculum Materials Center Manager
Peabody Library, Vanderbilt University.

Burkhardt, George S. *Confederate Rage, Yankee Wrath: No Quarter in the Civil War*. Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 2007. ISBN: 0809327430. 384 pages.

George S. Burkhardt's well researched and interesting book, *Confederate Rage, Yankee Wrath*, details an important yet underwritten aspect of the Civil War. Burkhardt examines the rage felt by Confederate soldiers at former black slaves for fighting against them as equals after Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation in 1863. He uses this motivation as part of his proof that the Confederate killings of black prisoners of war, and some white Federal soldiers, were not random massacres, but a standard policy practiced throughout much of the war. Burkhardt specifically examines Fort Pillow which was fought by men who served under General Nathan Bedford Forrest and the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia which was a major staging area for Confederate troops during the Civil War. His book is organized into easy to understand sections, and the influx of primary sources makes it credible and appealing. Tennessee libraries will be interested in adding this to their general history collection as a portion of the text deals with Fort Pillow, Tennessee, about forty miles north of Memphis. Recommended for university collections and those libraries with strong Civil War collections.

Claire Stults, Assistant Reference Librarian
Williamson County Public Library Franklin, TN

Coberly, Lenore McComas. *Sarah's Girls: A Chronicle of Big Ugly Creek*. Athens: Shallow/Ohio University Press, 2007. ISBN: 0804010951. 157 pages.

Sarah's Girls is a fictionalized account of the author's ancestors from the Appalachian town of Big Ugly. The book focuses on the lives of Sarah and Philip Hager and their daughters, Madge, Pearl, Ida, and Edna. It begins with Philip coming to the town of Big Ugly, West Virginia and looking for strong men to work at his timber cutting business venture so that he may earn money to become a doctor. During this labor search, Philip meets, and instantly falls in love with, Sarah Ferrell. Since Sarah refuses to leave Big Ugly, Philip gives up his dreams of moving to a big city for a better life to marry Sarah and settle down in Big Ugly. Philip and Sarah subsequently bear four beautiful daughters and make a nice life for themselves; although Philip still harbors the dream of moving to a city like Charleston, West Virginia and getting involved in politics. Unfortunately, Sarah, frequently described as a delicate and fragile woman, dies when her daughters are still young. After his beloved wife's death, Philip decides it is best for him and his daughters to move to the city of Hamblin, where the girls can earn a better education and Philip can make a better living. The majority of the book's action follows the Hager family's life after their move to the city and is interspersed with brief cuts to what other family members, such as Sarah's sister Lena, are doing back at Big Ugly. The book's narrative is also frequently broken up with letters from the girls to their relatives back in Big Ugly and aspiring writer Pearl's journal entries and other writings.

I was drawn into the lives of Philip and his daughters and caring what happened to them, but I did not find the book to be very well written. The dialog was especially abrupt and juvenile. I wondered why I should care about reading a book about a stranger's relatives in the first place. Despite all of those flaws, though, I did want to know how things turned out for everyone, and this book also provides good insight into close-knit family and city life at the turn of the twentieth century.

Even though *Sarah's Girls* is about real people, it is a book of fiction, and therefore, is not intended for any kind of research purposes. I would not recommend this book for any library, except possibly for the juvenile fiction section of a public library. Young fans of historical fiction like Laura Ingalls Wilder and the *American Girl* books might enjoy this book, but unless someone personally knows the author, I do not think anyone else will be interested.

Julie Caudle, Head Librarian
Spring Hill Public Library

Cooper, T. and Mansbach, Adam (eds). *A Fictional History of the United States With Huge Chunks Missing*. New York: Akashic Books, 2006. ISBN: 193335402X. 331 pages.

This collection of seventeen never-before-published stories is linked very tenuously to events in American history. This is a clever idea. The reader is pulled along from story to story and a motley collection is given some shape.

There are some stand outs. Alexander Chee describes how Chinese travelers are trapped in the new world and become First Peoples. Ron Kovic packs a lot of punch into seven pages in "The Recruiters" and is recommended reading for any young person thinking of joining the Marines.

David Rees and David Knight use graphics to make their points. Valerie Miner reminds us of the eerie similarities between the paranoia of the 1950s and our post 9/11 fears.

You may recognize many of the authors' names. While this is not always their best work it is nice to know what they are up to these days. *A Fictional History of the United States With Huge Chunks Missing* should be purchased by libraries whose patrons just cannot get enough short fiction.

Willa Reister, Interlibrary Loan
Knox County Public Library System

Engelhardt, Elizabeth S.D., editor. *Beyond Hill and Hollow Original Readings in Appalachian Women's Studies*. Athens: Ohio University Press, 2005. ISBN:0.821415778. 260 pages.

The overall content and purpose of the monograph presents the hardships suffered and perseverance, to not only survive but succeed, of women of Appalachia. For example, the book includes the fears of death of husbands while coal mining, feuds, challenging the stereotypes of mountain females, poor disadvantaged mountain women becoming ladies of the evening, and comparisons of Appalachia females to the poverty-stricken females of Bolivia. Revelations from books such as Sharyn McCrumb's *She Walks These Hills* educate readers.

This exhaustively and accurately researched book is comprised of a series editor's preface, a preface, an acknowledgments, twelve essays by twelve authors, two pages listing the contributors, and a precise index.

Chapter nine "Appalachian Women and Language Old and New Forms as Reflections of a Changing Image" includes four maps of dialect in Appalachia. Each powerful chapter ends with a studied listing of Notes. The book is divided into three sections including "Voices of Activism" with three chapters, "Voices of Class" composed of four chapters, and "Voices of Place" containing four chapters.

The intended audience is anyone interested in the struggles and conflicts of females of Appalachia. Clearly, *Beyond Hill and Hollow* enormously and vitally contributes to the fields of women's studies, sociology, social work, psychology, and history. Any academic library, public library, or special history collection of Appalachia should purchase and would invaluablely benefit from .

Melinda F. Matthews, Interlibrary Loan/Reference Librarian
University of Louisiana at Monroe

Fain, John N. ed. *Sanctified Trial: The Diary of Eliza Rhea Anderson Fain, a Confederate Woman in East Tennessee*. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2004. ISBN: 1572333138. 410 pages.

This diary of Eliza Rhea Anderson Fain describes the Civil War as it was for the female civilians and slaveholders in East Tennessee. Edited by a relative, John N. Fain, it gives a unique picture of the every day life of the people caught up in the war, especially those in one of the "border" states like Tennessee, where your neighbor might also be your enemy. Eliza was a wife, a mother to 13 children, a Confederate sympathizer, and a deeply religious woman. Her deep convictions about the Biblical rightness of slavery give an interesting view of the southern thinking at the time. With great pride, she sent her husband and five of her sons to war. All survived, but she agonized over those of her acquaintance who did die for the cause.

Eliza shows the strength and resiliency of the women of that time, whose comfortable lives were shattered by the war. She clothed and fed her family in spite of the invading army and bushwhackers who plundered her home. Neighbors helped neighbors whenever possible and they were also the main source of communication for each other. Eliza's deep religious faith and belief in the rightness of the Southern cause shine through in every entry of this amazing diary.

An incredible number of people touched her life on a daily basis, so an annotated list of the "Principle Characters in the Diary" and many well researched footnotes added by the editor are invaluable aids. And the extensive bibliography and index are also very helpful. Although a few maps are included in the preface material, they could be more detailed and inserted more appropriately. Recommended for academic and public libraries and for anyone interested in the Civil War, especially in Tennessee.

Sue Alexander
James E. Walker Library, Middle Tennessee State University

Gundaker, Grey and Judith M. McWillie. *No Space Hidden: The Spirit of African American Yard Work*. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2005. ISBN 1572333561.237pp.

In No Space Hidden, Grey Gundaker (Associate Professor of Anthropology and American Studies, College of William & Mary) and Judith McWillie (Professor of Painting and Drawing, University of Georgia's Lamar Dodd School of Art) provide, through photographs, background history and personal narratives of the southeastern African Americans who created these landscapes, a window onto the meaning and placement of materials used to "decorate" their yards. The book further suggests there are cultural threads running through "yard work" that reflect a global connection between the "practitioners" and their African, Caribbean, European, and Native American ancestors. The thread can be traced through themes, materials, imagery and organization of yards.

Driving through some areas of the Southeast, one may view yards filled with specifically arranged pieces of concrete, bottles, masks, bright shiny objects, metals and other objects of various materials and colors. This book suggests that the yard is not filled with junk but with carefully placed materials that are signs to commemorate, communicate, instruct, and warn, remind and admonish those who view them. In fact, these yard works have been viewed as outsider art or folk art and have created quite a stir in the art world. But these practitioners are doing more than creating art. They are making a statement about themselves, their community and how they live their lives responsibly within the community and society. There is also spiritual meaning in the yards created by these artist philosophers. These yards reflect the global connection as well as the individuality, creativity and philosophy of the owner.

This book acts as a personal guide through the yards, by providing biographical information about and first person conversations with the artists. It is an illustrated seminar in outsider art and anthropology, which informs of the spiritual, hidden and symbolic meanings, the rich culture and the histories these practitioners and their yards of bottles, wheels, sculptures, glass and found materials represent.

A unique feature of this book is an introductory portfolio to each of its six chapters. The portfolio contains most of McWillie's photographs of the yard work and many of the stories and personal narratives of the artists, while the chapters expound on the specific themes, materials and meanings represented in the portfolio. There are very informative notes for each chapter and portfolio. For further reading, there is an excellent selected bibliography.

No Space Hidden would be useful for public libraries with regional history and art collections and for academic libraries with African American Studies, American Studies, anthropology, or art history collections.

Sharon Johnson
Felix G. Woodward Library, Austin Peay State University

Hess, Earl J., William L. Shea, William G. Piston, and Richard W. Hatcher. *Wilson's Creek, Pea Ridge, & Prairie Grove: A Battlefield Guide, with a Section on Wire Road. This Hallowed Ground: Guides to Civil War Battlefields*. Lincoln: Bison Books, University of Nebraska Press, 2006. ISBN 0803273665 288 pages.

Part of the *This Hallowed Ground: Guides to Civil War Battlefields* series, this text provides the reader with a practical guide to three of the Trans-Mississippi Theater's most significant battles, Wilson's Creek, Pea Ridge, and Prairie Grove, as well as the Wire Road, a primary means of travel and communication in Southwest Missouri and Northwest Arkansas. A combination of authoritative writing and detailed battlefield analysis makes this a wonderful tool to understand how these battles unfolded and fit within the conflict over possession of Arkansas and Missouri. Anyone researching these events or traveling to the respective locations needs to read this work.

Four leading scholars combine to provide masterful analysis of these sites. Earl J. Hess, the Stewart McClelland Chair of History at Lincoln Memorial University, tackles the Battle of Pea Ridge, now preserved as the Pea Ridge National Military Park. The Battle of Prairie Grove, interpreted on the state level as the Prairie Grove Battlefield Park, is the subject of University of Arkansas Monticello professor of history William L. Shea's section. William G. Piston, professor of history at Missouri State University, and Richard Hatcher, historian at the Fort Sumter National Monument, combine their expertise to analyze the Battle of Wilson's Creek, also a national park called the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield. Hess writes the section on the Wire Road with valuable input from Piston and Shea, who focus upon stretches between Springfield and Madry, Missouri, and Dripping Springs and Van Buren, Arkansas, respectively.

To navigate the reader to these locations, the text is divided into a series of stops which require walking, and sites requiring less movement called substops. At each of these locations, the text uses the following terminology to describe the events and place the reader in the proper location: "Direction," "Orientation," "What Happened," "Analysis," and "Vignettes" "Direction" navigates drivers between stops and "Orientation" sets the viewer in the correct location to view the ground. "What Happened" and "Analysis" explain the overall importance of the site in relation to actual movements in the overall importance in the battle or campaign. "Vignettes" make the events more understandable by providing the readers with personal stories of the locations. Furthermore, the text contains numerous maps, photographs, and images to aid in describing the events, persons, and locations in these battles.

Overall, the writing and methodology make the text extremely flexible. The reader may frame the battles within the geography of Northeastern Arkansas and Southeastern Missouri to better understand the campaigns or focus on the movements within small areas on the battlefield. With this said, only one criticism exists. Both in reading and following the stops, the text is occasionally out of chronological order, causing some confusion for the inattentive reader. Nonetheless, the work is an excellent account of the location and events. It is highly recommended for the bookshelves of both academic and general libraries as Civil War scholars, enthusiasts, and novices will find it helpful in understanding these events.

Derek Allen Clements
Black River Technical College, Pocahontas, Arkansas

Horn, Dennis and Tavia Cathcart, editors. *Wildflowers of Tennessee, the Ohio Valley, and the Southern Appalachians: the Official Field Guide of the Tennessee Native Plant Society*. Auburn, WA: Lone Pine Publishing, 2005. ISBN 1551054280 ages.

Prepared under the auspices of the Tennessee Native Plant Society *Wildflowers of Tennessee, the Ohio Valley and the Southern Appalachians* is a welcome addition to the world of field guides specific to Tennessee flora and fauna. The title may mislead users to believe that the main focus is not on Tennessee; however, it reflects the editors' recognition of regional ecosystems in identifying wildflower habitats rather the state's political boundaries.

The guide describes over 1,250 species with almost 800 color photographs. The quality of the photographs will definitely assist with identification of flowers in the field. The photographs are also enjoyable to view for the beauty of the flowers. The photo editors, David Duhl and Dennis Horn, used the talents of over 50 photographers to create this visual delight.

The guide is organized first by plant family followed by subdivisions of genera and species, which are arranged alphabetically. An entry for an individual wildflower includes both the common and scientific names. A flower's description is categorized by into 6 distinct sections: general, leaves, fruits, where found, similar species, and notes. Section titles are in bold print and the layout is consistent for each entry, which makes it easy to locate pertinent information about a particular flower.

The introduction to *Wildflowers of Tennessee, the Ohio Valley and the Southern Appalachians* provides a good overview of the guide itself and related wildflower topics, such as the physiographic provinces in the region, and ethnobotany. The guide's layout is easy to use for all levels of users. For the novice wildflower enthusiast or casual user there is a 15 page color key to help start the identification process. The key has 300 photographs of flowers grouped by color to represent various plant families. The color key refers the user to the appropriate

page. In addition there are 12 family keys to help establish the genus of particular flower.

Wildflowers of Tennessee, the Ohio Valley and the Southern Appalachians is highly recommended for all Tennessee libraries.

Livy Simpson, Cataloging/ILL Librarian
Thigpen Library, Volunteer State Community College

Katz Cooper, Sharon. *Aristotle: Philosopher, Teacher, and Scientist*. Minneapolis: Compass Point Books, 2007. ISBN: 0756518733. 112 pages

Aristotle is one of history's greatest minds and his philosophies have influenced Western thinking from his time to present. Aristotelian teachings were dominant forces in Western education until the late medieval period until finally supplanted by Roger Bacon's new emphasis on the emerging scientific method. Understanding Aristotle's philosophy is no easy task, but Sharon Katz Cooper presents one of history's great minds in an easily accessible format, especially for younger readers.

This work is part the *Signature Lives* series, a collection of 66 books that details the lives of noteworthy historic figures ranging from Alexander the Great, Erasmus, Columbus, Hitler, and Eva Peron. Aimed at readers grades 5-7, the series seeks to present persons that shaped their time and future events by providing information that is fun and entertaining, not overwhelming in specialized jargon. The series is colorful and vibrant allowing for the imagination of readers to flower.

Sharon Katz Cooper's overview of Aristotle's life and times, philosophies, and influences are well researched. The history of ancient Greece comes to life in her work, as do those thinkers and leaders that Aristotle's teachings impacted. Katz Cooper is no stranger to writing about science and social studies for children; she has authored books in the *Exploring Earth's Resources*, *Exploring Science*, and *Country Abcs* series of childrens' books. Aristotle was instrumental in laying the early foundations for empirical science thus putting him well within a realm that Katz Cooper would understand.

One of best features of her work is the sidebars that abound throughout providing additional information about various people, places, and ideas that relate to Aristotle. Also, the immense variation of art is very impressive. Art ranging from ancient Greek pottery to medieval illuminated books that depict Aristotle serve to enlighten readers and expose them the artistic movements of the West. The back matter includes a timeline of Aristotle's life as compared with major events, short biographical information about Aristotle, a suggested reading list with additional resources, and a brief glossary of terms. This material is very good as it encourages further exploration of the subject matter.

Aristotle: Philosopher, Teacher, and Scientist is a work that should be considered for the childrens' section of a public library as well as for media centers in public schools. In fact, other books from the *Signature Lives* series should also be considered in order to expose young readers to many historic figures and influential ideas of the past that still resonate in the present.

Jamie B. Price, Reference Librarian
Jefferson College of Health Sciences
Roanoke, Virginia

Kotarski, Georgiana C. *Ghosts of the Southern Tennessee Valley*. Winston-Salem: John F. Blair, 2006. ISBN 0895873265. 217 pages.

Georgiana C. Kotarski, director of the Sequatchie Valley campus of Chattanooga State Technical Community College, has written an enjoyable book that "seek[s] neither to condone nor criticize a belief in ghosts but rather...document[s] ghost lore for the entertainment of believers and nonbelievers alike" (xxi). Ms. Kotarski prefaces her collection of tales with a description of how she was commissioned to write an article about the ghosts of Chattanooga for a local publication. After researching several local legends, she completed the article and it was published. She related that after the article's publication, she began to talk with many people who believed that they had witnessed or experienced something that they believed was otherworldly. After several years, she says she felt compelled to write about these spirits of the southern Tennessee Valley and share the stories with a wider audience.

She credits many specific professors, historians, and librarians with assisting her in her research. She also conducted numerous interviews with witnesses to possible paranormal phenomena.

Ms. Kotarski outlines the scope of this book to include tales from southeastern Tennessee, northwest Georgia, and north Alabama. She begins her collection of stories in 1844 in Pikeville, TN with the case of the outlaw John A. Murrell, whose restless spirit began to appear after his corpse was dug up and decapitated. Other tales from Tennessee include the case of a young girl who lost her life in a tragic accident and continues to haunt her burial place with her tears; and the case of a friendly "shadow man" who was likely a civil war soldier or veteran. There are several cases from around the Chattanooga area, including one involving the administrative building at the University of Tennessee, Chattanooga; and a case of a possible haunting of a Ruby Tuesday by a young child who liked to play tricks on patrons and staff

Tales from Northwest Georgia include those of protective and kind spirits, distressed civil war soldiers, possible demons, and a ghostly older couple who continue to haunt the home where they made their lives.

Tales from north Alabama include that of a time shifting graveyard and the story of a murder victim who communicated with police officers investigating the crime scene of her murder.

The history and folklore reported in this book appears to be well researched, although the author does make a point to state that sources do

not always agree and many versions of the same tale can and often do exist (xx). The inclusion of interviews and first hand accounts greatly enhance the book. The writing style is very easy to digest. his book does not claim to be the definitive version of ghost tales from the southeastern Tennessee area, but it would make a nice addition to local history, folklore, or paranormal collections in public or community college libraries.

Jennifer Newcome, Librarian
Hardwick—Johnston Memorial Library, Hiwassee College

Lofaro, Michael A., editor. *Agee Agonistes: Essays on the Life, Legend, and Works of James Agee*. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2007. ISBN 1572335742. 334 pages.

James Agee, Knoxville poet, novelist, screenwriter, columnist, television writer, and lyricist, had many literary talents. His work was recently forgotten, but is now experiencing revival. He had a self destructive personality. He wrote with liquor on one edge of the table, and Benzedrine on the other. He also used nitroglycerine, which he took to nurse himself through the small heart attacks which were common. Finally an attack claimed his life in a New York taxi at the age of 48. One wonders what his literary production might have been had he lived longer. He left many, many works unfinished.

The overall content of the work is a commentary on the various literary genres in which Agee was involved, and on his life. The purpose of the book is to analyze the influences on his work, and to describe and critique the work itself.

Lofaro has written a number of other books concerning not only Agee, but Daniel Boone and Davy Crockett. He is a professor at the University of Tennessee Knoxville. Among his works on Agee are: *James Agee Rediscovered: Journals of Let Us Now Praise Famous Men and Other New Manuscripts*, *The Literary Notebooks of James Agee and Other Documents*, and *James Agee: Reconsiderations*. Therefore he comes highly qualified.

The book contains a list of references at the end of each article, and an index. One unique feature is the depth of the book. It contains an introduction entitled "Mapping Agee's Myriad Mind," followed by "Agee's Influences and Syntheses," "Agee's Films," "Agee's Literature," "Agee's Correspondence," and finally an afterword by his daughter describing life with her father. Each section contains about five articles.

It may come as a surprise that Agee, known mainly for his prose and poetry, wrote the screenplay for *The African Queen*, and *The Night of the Hunter*, both Hollywood movies. He also wrote a screenplay for television entitled "Mr. Lincoln." Agee was a friend of Charlie Chaplin, and admired his work.

Some say his greatest prose work was "Let Us Now Praise Famous Men." Agee spent 8 weeks with Alabama sharecroppers during the depression and the book depicts their lives. In the essay "Every Prayer's a Heartbreak," Fred Chappell shows the religious nature of Agee's poetry, and how it was influenced by Donne and Auden.

The fact that it is very well written, and covers so many aspects of Agee's oeuvre, makes it worth reading. The intended audience is Agee scholars, those interested in a literary man who was "myriad minded," and those interested in Tennessee writers. It is recommended for academic and public libraries interested in literature in general, and Tennessee writers in particular.

Chris Langer, User Services Librarian
Tennessee State University

McDermott, Nancie. *Southern Cakes: Sweet and Irresistible Recipes For Everyday Celebrations*. New York: Chronicle Books, 2007. 0811853705. 168 pages.

Geared for those with at least a rudimentary understanding of cooking techniques and basic kitchen supplies, this charming, sturdy cookbook offers 65 southern cake recipes. While the elegant photos are fitting to provide for more than just coffee table décor, accompanying mouth-watering recipes will surely pique curiosity. For each entry, McDermott shares some varying information such as historical relevance, recipe credits (including one from famous southerner Eudora Welty), helpful tips, stories, and personal memories.

Content ranges from chapters on one specific type of cake, such as "Pound Cakes," to broad-based chapters like "Antiques and Heirlooms," which represents a larger cake variety. Examples of assortments therein include "Colonial Queen Cakes," the "Lady Baltimore Cake" and more. A supplementary chapter entitled "Frostings, Icings, and Fillings" provides tasty toppings recipes that could serve as an alternative to those given. Accommodating sections include "Baking 101," "Table of Equivalents," and "Mail-Order and Internet Sources for Equipment and Ingredients." For reader reference, a Bibliography, Index, Permissions page, and occasional cross-references are included.

Whether readers identify with memories of old-fashioned recipes or find a new one to try, they will surely delight in this inviting and often informative resource. I made the Mississippi Mud Cake to test the recipe's user-friendliness and taste. I got rave reviews from all who partook in my creation. It was so much easier than I thought it would be to make, too.

[Editor's Note: *The book's photography, layout, and aesthetic were so delightful that I bought a personal copy and baked the Brown Sugar Pound Cake recipe, which was a hit during the holidays with my guests. And the variety of recipes are just as mouth-watering as Ms. Webster wrote. -rts*]

Cara Webster, M.S., Assistant Librarian
Vise Library, Cumberland University

McKee, Gwen and Barbara Moseley (editors). *Best of the Best from Tennessee Cookbook*. Brandon, MS: Quail Ridge Press, 2005. ISBN 1-893062-73-2. 286 pp.

From the "Best of the Best" series of cookbooks by Quail Ridge Press, this recently released 2nd edition includes nearly 400 new recipes from 76 different cookbooks from all across the Volunteer state. Although the look of the cookbook itself is rather drab, you'll soon be won over by the wide variety of scrumptious recipes it has to offer. From the Darn Good Chocolate Cake to the Picante Quiche to the Little Cheddar Meat Loaves, this collection is sure to have something to please just about every palate.

The recipes are arranged logically into categories such as Breads and Meats. This allows you to easily flip through the pages and browse at leisure. The cookbook also provides a useful index in the back if you want to look up something specific. For the most part, the recipes are straightforward with easy-to-follow instructions, and most recipes rely on standard ingredients that are affordable and easy to find. What seems to be missing most from this cookbook are photographs of the actual food. Color photographs especially would have been a nice addition and would make the cookbook much more visually appealing overall.

In addition to its recipes, this cookbook also offers "tidbits" of Tennessee history and culture interspersed throughout the pages, along with some black and white illustrations. To me, these tidbits seem unnecessary and simply add clutter to the page. However, I do like the extra section in the back that supplies information about all the contributing cookbooks. You can see pictures of the cookbook covers and find contact information about how to purchase them.

Some of the cookbook's many contributors include: *Dining in the Smoky Mountain Mist*, *Junior League of Knoxville*; *Good Humor Cookin'*, *The Daily News Journal*; *Holidays at Home: The Tennessee Magazine Cookbook*, and *Once Upon a Recipe*, *YMCA of Middle Tennessee*.

As some people say, "the proof is in the pudding." Well, this holds especially true when judging a cookbook. Although *Best of the Best from Tennessee Cookbook* has a few minor flaws, the recipes themselves are top-notch, and the cookbook provides a great sampling of different types of cuisine from all across the state. At \$16.95, this would be a great buy for any public library. It would also be appropriate for any academic library with a cookbook collection.

Ginelle Baskin, User Services Librarian (temp. position)
James E. Walker Library, MTSU

MacRae, Molly. *Wilder Rumors*. Farmington Hills, MI: Five Star/Thompson Gale, 2007. ISBN-10 1594145555. 261 pages.

Lewis Wilder was looking for a simple life when he took the position of museum curator in the small historic town of Nolichucky, Tennessee. But, as Miss Marple could have told him, small town life is far from simple. Everyone knows everyone else, and a newcomer draws a lot of attention. Even in this indeterminate time before email and ubiquitous cell phones, rumors spread faster than flash floods in the surrounding Appalachian mountains. Lewis has been estranged from the aunt who raised him for several years and likes to keep his personal life private, which causes people to be even more speculative about him. He becomes the favorite suspect as "The Fox," a clever burglar who specializes in antiques. Anonymous cash donations to the museum further fuel the rumors. Lewis's attempts to court local bookstore owner Marilyn Wooten seem to be foiled by the return of an old boyfriend. The stress on Lewis from a series of anonymous phone calls, a prying journalist, the suspicious local sheriff, and his missing wallet culminates in a very public argument with a wealthy car dealer. When that man is found murdered and a valuable artifact missing, Lewis becomes the prime suspect.

This promising first novel is distinguished by witty dialogue, well-developed characters, humorous situations, and vivid local color. A past winner of the Sherwood Anderson Award for Short Fiction, MacRae has had many short stories published in *Alfred Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine*, including one, "Fandango by Flashlight," featured on the cover. An earlier version of this novel won first place in the Virginia Highlands creative writing contest.

MacRae certainly knows her setting. She spent 20 years in northeast Tennessee, first as curator of the history museum in Jonesborough (on which Nolichucky is loosely modeled), and then as manager of The Book Place, an independent bookstore in Johnson City. She now lives with her family in Champaign, Illinois, working in the public library, where her self-described job is "pushing books on children."

Dr. Jean Flanigan
Sherrod Library, East Tennessee State University

Madden, Etta M. and Finch, Martha L., eds. *Eating in Eden: Food and American Utopias*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2006. ISBN: 0803232519. 296 pages.

Eating in Eden: Food and American Utopias is a collection of essays edited by Etta M. Madden and Martha L. Finch which seeks to examine the historical use of food in American utopian communities. The essays present the idea that the way food is consumed and what food is consumed serve to identify and separate groups from the whole of American society. From the early Puritan settlers' use of familiar European foods to create a separation from Native Americans to the counterculture movement use of vegetarianism to directly challenge the status quo, *Eating in Eden* tracks how these groups used food and the consumption of food to create a unique identity that reflected their utopian goals. The book is divided into three parts which examine the ways immigrant groups have used food to both assimilate and separate themselves, how utopian societies like the Amana Community and the Shakers used their consumption of food as a method of defining themselves as a separate community, and how social groups like Co-ops of Minneapolis sought to use food as a method of social change.

The essays focusing on immigrants' relationship with food in America reveal the difficulty in assimilation while attempting to retain a unique cultural identity. According to the essay on Jewish-American foodways, this conflicting desire to assimilate and yet retain ethnic identity often results in a confusing and difficult relationship towards food. Many early Jewish immigrants were amazed by the bounty and variety of foods available in America, and yet saw their cultural food restrictions as a way to retain their Jewish-ness. A similar dichotomy is revealed when Hindu temples in Atlanta are examined. While serving traditional Indian foods the Hindu temples remind their participants of Mother India; but at the same time, the modern kitchens staffed by a Brahmin cook preparing food purchased at Sam's Club and funded through internet donations reveal a distinctly American flavor.

In the section on communal utopias, essays examine how idealist communal utopias used food to define themselves. By focusing on moderation and simplicity in meals, the Amana community and other utopian societies emphasized their differences to the outside world. An additional separation was provided by communal kitchens and regulated dining times that served to create a close bond that emphasized the community over the family.

The final collection of essays focuses on how groups seeking social reform use food to enact those reforms. Vegetarian movements seek to eliminate the environmental and karmic damage done by America's carnivorous ways and co-op movements struggled with conflicting ideals of providing foods the working class would want and only stocking foods they need.

The essays in *Eating in Eden* present an interesting treatment of food and culture in American history. The idea that "you are what you eat" is profoundly reflected by the way utopian communities use food to identify who they are. Sadly, the short length of the compositions only serves to whet the appetite for further research into how America's utopian ideals and food interact.

Jane Davis, Computing Applications Librarian
Middle Tennessee State University

Molloy, Johnny. *60 Hikes within 60 Miles, Nashville: Including Clarksville, Columbia, Gallatin, and Murfreesboro*. 2nd ed. Birmingham: Menasha Ridge Press, 2007. ISBN: 0897326075. 212 pages.

There is obviously a numbers game going on among books on hiking in *Tennessee: 40 Hikes in Tennessee's South Cumberland*, by Russ Manning (3rd edition, 2000); *50 Hikes in the Tennessee Mountains*, by Doris Gove, 2001); and the first edition of *60 Hikes within 60 Miles: Nashville* (2002). Do I hear 70? How about 62, the number of trails covered in *Hiking Tennessee*, by Kelley Roark (1996)? (A second edition of this guide is in the works, due out in 2009.) But the grandfather of them all is *Hiking Tennessee Trails*, by Evan Means and updated by Bob Brown (5th edition, 1999), which dates back to 1979; it includes 125 trails from the mountains to the Mississippi and is the sine qua non among Tennessee trail books.

Johnny Molloy, a Tennessee native, is a busy man, having written twenty-nine books on hiking, camping, paddling, and other outdoor adventures, mostly in the Southeast—as can be appreciated at his own website <http://www.johnnymolloy.com/>. Thus this second edition of *60 Hikes within 60 Miles: Nashville* follows the model of other 60 Hikes in other Southeastern states consisting of (1) hiking recommendations by length and setting, (2) an introduction to the book and to hiking itself, (3) sixty entries on sixty hikes, (4) appendices bearing very little information, and (5) an index. Each entry includes (1) key at-a-glance information on each trail (length, configuration, difficulty, etc.), (2) in-brief description followed by a fuller description of the trail in question, (3) directions to get there, (4) GPS trailhead coordinates, (5) a map of the trail, and (6) nearby/related activities—all of this laid out in very legible black-and-white maps and photos. Of the 60 trails, 16 are in the immediate Nashville area, 13 west of Nashville, 9 to the southwest, 11 to the southeast, and 11 to the east—a nice balance for anyone living or visiting in the general area.

The only competitor in terms of geographical coverage is Robert Brandt's excellent *Middle Tennessee on Foot: Hikes in the Wood & Walks on Country Roads* (1998). Of the 60 trails featured in Molloy, only 24 appear in Brandt, but the latter's book includes 17 sites that extend beyond Molloy's 60-mile limit from Nashville. Also, Brandt's attention to historical detail and setting gives a richness to his book that will not be easily superceded, even if Molloy is more up to date. I also prefer Brandt's arrangement by park or area rather than by name of trail; generic names such as Highland Trail, Lakeside Trail, Pinnacle Trail, Perimeter Trail, and Connector Trail have no meaning when listed by themselves.

The fact that Molloy's guide is limited to hiking trails within sixty miles of Nashville does not mean that it will not be useful in libraries elsewhere in the state and beyond. Nashville has become a major tourist site and many of those tourists come to enjoy the natural beauty of this area as well as its music and other attractions. Recommended for all libraries in the state.

Edwin S. Gleaves, State Librarian & Archivist (Ret.)
Tennessee State Library & Archives

Ray, Celeste, ed. *The New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture. Vol. 6: Ethnicity*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2007. ISBN-10: 0807858234. ISBN-13: 978-808758233.

In 2006, the University of North Carolina Press issued its first volume of *The New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*, an ambitious twenty-four-volume project designed to update comprehensively the original *Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*, published in 1989. Each topical volume published thus far has expanded upon the original encyclopedia with updates of original entries and entirely new articles on subjects not covered in the first edition.

This latest volume, *Ethnicity*, only exemplifies just how much this encyclopedia has built upon its 1989 foundation. The section on "Ethnicity"

in the original *Encyclopedia of Southern Culture* covered only thirty specific ethnic groups, while the current volume considers eighty-eight such groups; and this expansion is not merely a reflection of the prevalence of new ethnic groups in the South, for many of the region's earliest ethnic communities also come under analysis. Thirty-four American Indian groups are included, encompassing all federally recognized tribes in the South, as well as almost twenty European groups and various Asian, Latin American, Caribbean, and African peoples that have made the South their home. The volume also covers the many creole, hybrid, and regional ethnic identities that are a part of Southern culture, in addition to those identities determined in part by religious affiliation, such as Huguenots, Waldensians, and Moravians. All of this is set off by an introductory essay by editor Celeste Ray, "Ethnicity & Creolization," which not only outlines recent scholarship on the early and current ethnic diversity of the South but also details the ongoing process of cultural blending that has given the South its unique identity.

The result is a volume that succeeds in transcending the usual black/white dichotomy that has been historically prevalent in academic constructions of Southern identity. The entries are written by specialists in their respective fields from across the nation—university professors, independent scholars, tribal representatives, among others—and feature fairly extensive bibliographies, a particularly salient feature of this series, as encyclopedias are never the end-all, be-all of research but rather starting points. This volume, like previous volumes in the series, is designed for a broad-based readership and so could serve both academic and public libraries quite well.

Of course, most encyclopedias are representative tools of reference, rather than comprehensive ones. That is to say, there are more ethnic communities in the South than are covered in this particular volume; my own state of Arkansas has been home to Slovaks and Tibetans, two groups who get no mention (though I was rather surprised to learn that we have a fairly large Romani contingent). But working now on the second encyclopedia project of my career, I understand just how difficult these things are to put together, what with working in concert with a myriad of authors and having to rely upon previously published research for entries. No encyclopedia will ever achieve the ideal, but this series comes as close as any has, and the editors should be applauded for putting forth such a valued contribution to the field.

Guy Lancaster, Assistant Editor
Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture

Shores, Lori. *Teens in India (Global Connections)*. Mankato, MN: Compass Point, 2007. ISBN 0756520711. 96 pages.

Do you remember having to write country reports when you were in middle school? If your library was like mine, the books were fairly old with black and white pictures that were less than inspirational. The good news is that the end of boring country books has arrived if *Teens in India* is a fair indication of the quality of the Global Connections series.

Lori Shores has written a book that should satisfy the reader's curiosity about Indian teens. Separate chapters describe a typical school day, family life, food, religious traditions including marriage customs, recreation, types of work, and the differences between urban and rural lifestyles. The tone is upbeat, although less savory aspects of Indian life, such as the caste system, poverty, and illegal child labor are not ignored.

Shore includes quite a bit of supplementary material. A section entitled "At a Glance" includes demographic information, as well as information on the government, geography, and economy of India (this section includes the URL for FactHound, a web portal that is designed to provide students with accurate, current, and recommended web resources that match the student's search criteria). A "Historical Timeline" presents Indian history from 2000 B.C. until 2006 A.D. Other sections include a glossary, a list of additional resources, the author's source notes, and a bibliography for further reading.

Teens in India is designed to appeal to today's visually oriented youth. Color photographs of young people living very active lifestyles appear on practically every page. Graphs, maps, and timelines are used to convey information about India. The judicious use of slanted captions as well as different colored paper, type, and font sizes help to create a visually enticing book that invites the reader to explore the many aspects of Indian culture.

According to the author notes, Lori Shores has a master's degree in literature from Minnesota State University. Anu Taranath, a senior lecturer in the Department of English at the University of Washington, served as the content advisor. Working as a team, Shores and Taranath have created an appealing book that should inspire dreams of a trip to India in the reader. *Teens in India*, one of 14 books available in the Global Connections series, is recommended as a valuable addition to public and middle school libraries where there is a demand for multicultural books.

Kathy Campbell, Instruction & Reference Librarian
East Tennessee State University

Steed, Robert P. and Laurence W. Moreland, editors. *Writing Southern Politics: Contemporary Interpretations and Future Directions*. Lexington: University of Kentucky Press, 2006. ISBN 10: 0-8131-2382-8; ISBN-13: 978-0-8138-2382-0

The editors and contributors of this work, all political scientists at universities, devoted themselves to the task of combing the scholarly literature with the hope of providing representative works and research agendas for specific but over-lapping areas within political science. The editors' intention was not to provide a comprehensive bibliography or complete set of research questions, but to direct future scholars and educated readers of southern politics into some of the more fruitful areas of research. These areas include: party development, activism, Civil Rights Movement, race & congressional districting, women, religion, migration, ideology, presidential elections, governors and legislators.

Each author(s) was invested with a certain amount of liberty in the writing of the chapter. This freedom has resulted in a diverse and sometimes lively communication of viewpoints. One illustration of liveliness is seen in Scher's "Whither the Writings" subsection which he uses to seriously question political scientists for what he considers a paucity of political science literature on Civil Rights in comparison to the scholarly production from history, journalism and sociology fields. Another example concerns the basic texts in the field. While, the editors announce V.O. Key's work as foundational for research and other contributors make pointed references to Key's work, Miller and Remington's essay on "Women and Southern Politics" argues at the outset that Key's work should not be considered so important since he didn't discuss women's interests in his scholarship. These critiques show a determination to push the boundaries of inquiry. This authentic divergence in scholarly opinion on foundational texts and theories corroborates the editors and contributors contentions that political science cries out for more research.


This diversity of treatment is also seen in the referencing systems deployed by authors and in the headings given to subsections. The editors note that some individual essays privilege monographic treatment over journal articles. Engstrom's chapter "Race and Southern Politics" is accompanied by end notes as well as References section, whereas many of the chapters eschew end notes. Jelen's conclusion serves a traditional function rather than setting up a research agenda. Other authors use the conclusions to further refine lines of inquiry. While, the lack of uniformity impedes easy browsing it does not harm the impulse for creativity.

These essays should really be seen more as springboards for discovery rather than complete literature over-views. I recommend *Writing Southern Politics* for academic libraries with programs in Political Science and affiliated fields.

Adria P. Olmi, Reference/Serials Librarian
Aquinas College Library

Please send questions, comments, and suggestions to [Kanneese Woods](#) .

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