

January 2008

REVIEW: Georgia Quilts: Piecing Together a History

Tamika Maddox Strong
DeKalb County Public Library

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/glq>

 Part of the [Art and Design Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Strong, Tamika Maddox (2008) "REVIEW: Georgia Quilts: Piecing Together a History," *Georgia Library Quarterly*: Vol. 44 : Iss. 4 , Article 29.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/glq/vol44/iss4/29>

This Review is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@Kennesaw State University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Georgia Library Quarterly by an authorized editor of DigitalCommons@Kennesaw State University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@kennesaw.edu.

thereafter, he established himself as a writer, winning the National Book Award for his first published novel, *The Moviegoer*, in 1961. Using an oral history technique, author David Harwell provides a glimpse into the parts of Percy's character not otherwise covered in previous biographies. Through his extensive interviews with 13 individuals who knew Walker Percy, including Percy's brothers, his housekeeper, former teachers, community members and his lifelong friend author Shelby Foote, rich tapestry is woven. We learn of his involvement in civil rights, his role in his community, his conversion to Catholicism, his spirituality, his struggles with depression and his unwavering quest for meaning in life. He was a quiet, private person, not seeking the limelight, who was often surprised when his literary accomplishments were acknowledged publicly. Because Harwell allowed the narrators to talk about themselves as well as their relationship with Percy, some interviews tend to wander from the focus of the subject; however, the final result is a collection of remembrances that serve as an important complement to the longer, more comprehensive biographies of Walker Percy. The book is recommended for academic libraries and especially for Percy fans. ▶▶

— Reviewed by **Pat Borck**
Macon State College Library

Blood & Irony: Southern White Women's Narratives of the Civil War, 1861-1927 by Sarah E. Gardner (University of North Carolina Press, 2004; ISBN 978-0-8078-5767-0, \$19.95).

Historical perspectives on the Civil War and its aftermath were reflected in and shaped by the writings of Southern white women. Sarah E. Gardner traces the progression of women's themes from journals and letters written during the war through postwar histories and biographies. She covers the efforts of the United Daughters of the Confederacy to influence women's writing and shows how idealistic "Lost Cause" accounts gave way over time to less romantic views. Gardner examines in detail Margaret Mitchell's Pulitzer Prize-winning *Gone With the Wind* (1936) as a landmark work with national appeal and Caroline Gordon's *None Shall Look Back* (1937) as an early attempt at a Civil War epic. Gardner places women's writings in the context of national cultural and political movements as well as in seminal works by male authors and brings to life the personalities of the women who helped fashion postwar Southern culture. Scholarly in depth, *Blood & Irony* is also engaging, good-humored and highly readable. Includes bibliography and illustrations. Highly recommended for



academic libraries and collections focusing on the Civil War, Southern history or Southern women. ▶▶

— Reviewed by **Maureen Puffer-Rothenberg**
Valdosta State University

Community Journalism: Relentlessly Local, 3rd ed. by Jock Lauterer (University of North Carolina Press, 2006; ISBN 978-0-5629-1, \$29.95).

Lost in the world of megamedia emphasizing "the culture" and international events is the fact that most of us still have a need for local news. Lauterer's book is a combination of passionate hymn and textbook on that subject. He is a former small-town publisher in North Carolina, now teaching at the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Journalism. Twenty-four chapters divide the territory into smaller segments: news, sports, graphics, ethics, "speed bumps and troubleshooting" among them. Lauterer defines "community journalism" as those publications under 50,000 circulation within a definable area. These dominate the American landscape: 9,104 out of 9,321 newspapers fit that definition. Smaller newspapers are more likely to be locally owned, and there are many more small newspapers than large ones in every state. Most offer their news and ads on a Web site. The dynamics of facing and serving those you cover is at the heart of all this. Lauterer is in love with editors who cover things that the metro dailies don't have time for: Little League, Boy Scouts, biggest pumpkin in the county, fundraisers and government. There is a special tension, sometimes positive, sometimes negative, between readers and editors at that level. This is primarily a textbook, though anyone will find it useful and enlightening. His chattiness and informal writing style were exasperating at times, and the photos make every small town look like the set of "Mayberry RFD." But it is heartening to know that there are still many devoted to serving the news needs of smaller communities where many of us live. ▶▶

— Reviewed by **Wallace B. Eberhard**
University of Georgia (Emeritus)



Georgia Quilts: Piecing Together a History edited by Anita Zaleski Weinraub (University of Georgia Press, 2006; ISBN 0-8203-2850-2, \$34.95).

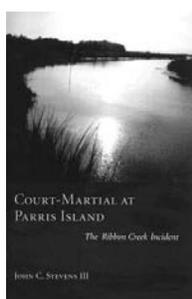
In 1990, the Georgia Quilt Project (GQP) set out to create a written and photographic history of Georgia quilts. Over the span



of three years, the GQP held 76 Quilt History Days, where a core group of 90 volunteers were able to document and photograph more than 10,000 quilts. Georgians from all walks of life participated in the project, many of them sharing stories about the quilts and the quiltmakers. The book opens with an introduction outlining the methodology the GQP used to document the quilts. The next chapter provides a historical background, giving the reader a general overview of local and national events to show how they influenced quilting in the state. In the next few chapters, the editor and others delved deeper into specific topics mentioned in the historical background chapter. Beginning with early quilts, defined as quilts made prior to 1861, the book continues with essays discussing quilts made by Civil War survivors, the history and role of King Cotton and textiles in Georgia quilting, and African-American quilting. Also included is an essay on the quilts of Harriet Powers, a former slave whose quilts are now in the Smithsonian Museum of American History and the Boston Museum of Fine Arts. Though many quilts were made as gifts or for special occasions, some were created out of need and were used daily. These quilts were made using whatever was available, even feed, cotton and flour sacks. An essay on Georgia Quilting guilds serves as a great resource for anyone interested in joining one, and, lastly, an essay on the Olympic Gift Quilts illustrates how the project, which began as a simple idea, became an international celebration and recognition of Georgia quilting. Rich and vibrant illustrations fill the pages of this well-written, well-researched book. Appendices providing a statistical summary of the documented quilts and a listing of the Quilt History Days are included. *Georgia Quilts* not only serves as a history of Georgia quilts, it also presents an all-inclusive examination of the lives of the quiltmakers. Quilters, historians and genealogists alike will enjoy this book. Recommended for all libraries. ▶▶

— Reviewed by **Tamika Maddox Strong**
DeKalb County Public Library

Court-Martial at Parris Island: The Ribbon Creek Incident by John C. Stevens III (The University of South Carolina Press, 2007; ISBN 978-1-57003-703-0, \$19.95).



Traditional Marine Corps discipline turned to tragedy in the swamps of Parris Island, South Carolina, on the night of April 8, 1956, when Staff Sergeant Matthew McKeon led Platoon 71 into the receding tidal waters of Ribbon Creek on a disciplinary exercise. In darkness and chaos, six Marine recruits were drowned in minutes, and the attention of the nation

weighed heavily upon McKeon and the tough training practices of the Marine Corps. The legal and political wrangling during McKeon's court-martial, combined with unprecedented media exposure, rocked the historic foundations of the Marine Corps and forced changes in methods used to train U.S. Marines. The final verdict devastated McKeon's military career. Comprehensively researched and clearly documented, Stevens offers an authoritative and objective perspective on the events of that tragic night, weaving personal testimonies from survivors of Platoon 71 with official military and legal records. Writing as a former trial court judge and 1957 Parris Island recruit, the author provides valuable legal and military experience to assist the reader in understanding the details surrounding the events of the Ribbon Creek tragedy and ensuing trial. This very readable chronicle of a significant event in the history of the Marine Corps recounts in detail the fast-paced legal maneuvering during the court-martial, including excerpts from official court transcripts. Engaging and focused in style, Stevens enhances the details of the unfolding legal proceedings with a candid portrayal of the individual personalities involved. Perhaps one of this work's greatest merits is that the author does not endeavor to guide the reader to a specific conclusion. Facts are presented and various perspectives are considered, but ultimately the reader is left to ponder the events, the judgment and the consequences. The narrative is supplemented with captioned black and white photographs and maps, a bibliography and an index. Recommended for academic and public libraries. ▶▶

— Reviewed by **Geoffrey P. Timms**
Jack Tarver Library, Mercer University

Haunted Savannah: The Official Guidebook to Savannah Haunted History Tour 2007 by James Caskey (Bonaventure Books, 2006, ISBN 0-9724224-2-0, \$13.95).



Savannah is one of those coastal Southern towns with its fair share of ghostly tales. In this guidebook, an accompaniment to the haunted history tours of Savannah, the author presents histories of reportedly haunted locations. Conjectures as to the cause of the activity and personal recollections of those who have witnessed Savannah's seeming overabundance of paranormal phenomena for themselves are presented for many locations. These locations include old homes, businesses and hotels, along with graveyards and town squares. Tales dating back to Savannah's early English settlers, slave labor, Civil and Revolutionary war experiences, and duels pepper this