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## Book Review: To Make this Land Our Own: Community, Identity, and Cultural Adaption in Purrysburg Township, South Carolina

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## BOOK REVIEWS

**Migliazzo, Arlin C. and Lawrence S. Rowland.** *To Make this Land Our Own: Community, Identity, and Cultural Adaptation in Purrysburg Township, South Carolina, 1732-1865.* Columbia, S.C.: University of South Carolina Press, 2007. 435 pp. \$59.95.  
ISBN 13: 9781570036828, ISBN 10: 1570036829.

*To Make This Land Our Own* is an astoundingly excellent staggeringly investigated narrative of Purrysburg the first township in South Carolina. Resplendently included in the brilliant exploration of Purrysburg are an accurate contents, outstandingly detailed illustrations of figures, maps, and tables, a moving and eloquently written foreword by Lawrence S. Rowland, a thought-provoking preface, acknowledgments, seven superior fully researched chapters, a conclusion, seventy-eight pages of voluminously extensive scholarly notes, a tremendously vast bibliography, a superbly exact index, and of chief significance about the author. The titles of the chapters are Chapter One "The Founding Vision," Chapter Two "The Precarious Contexts of Settlement," Chapter Three "A Neighborhood of Families," Chapter Four "The Search for a Sacred Community," Chapter Five "The Lineaments of Commercial Life," Chapter Six "The Social Bonds of Commerce," Chapter Seven "Wars and Rumors of Wars," and Chapter Eight "No Longer Strangers."

The description starts as Jean Pierre Purry, a representative of Switzerland and England, asks England for Swiss settlers to have land in South Carolina in exchange for producing silk in South Carolina for England. Table two on pages seventy to ninety is a complete listing of who owned Purrysburg land and the amount. Heat and new illnesses caused death.

Snakes, alligators, animals, food contamination, measles, smallpox, beriberi, malaria, and others resulted in death and health problems. The Purrysburg doctors practiced releasing blood to cause good health. Some persons moved from Purrysburg to Ebenezer and to Savannah Georgia.

French and Germans married one another in Purrysburg. People from Purrysburg travelled to Ebenezer and Salzburg for worship. Lutherans, Anabaptists, and Presbyterians composed some of the worshipers in Purrysburg.

The Savannah River was used to escort travelers while the boat drivers drank alcohol. Ferries utilized on the Savannah River hurt jobs in Purrysburg. The ferries escorted persons to jobs across the Savannah River away from Purrysburg. The Indians and other settlers liked South Carolina over Georgia because the use of alcohol was allowed. There was more trade with Ebenezer not Savannah.

Farm people had food, while town people relied on shops. South Carolina was known as the best economy in the world due to rice, indigo, and silk being produced in the mid-eighteenth century. People with extra land were called planters and ranchers. All members of families were involved in the silk industry. Purry thought about a wine industry in Purrysburg in addition to silk. The American Revolutionary War prevented the silk industry in South Carolina.

Purrysburg was ready for war with England as a result of its location on the Savannah River near the Atlantic coast. There was the thought that Spain would attack Savannah. Purrysburg was ready to prevent. French and Indian wars occurred north of Purrysburg.

Purrysburg stopped stolen goods going down the Savannah River. Britain invaded the north initially in the American Revolution. Then, later on in the war, Britain invaded the South including Georgia and South Carolina. England wanted to use America to replenish West India.

General Benjamin Lincoln established a hospital and forces at Purrysburg. Loyalists attacked for Britain. The main problem was the soldiers leaving. A soldier disguised himself as a female to go on a date. There were not enough troops at Purrysburg. It was easier for the American troops to cut down residences' fences than cut fire wood. The Purrysburg houses were taken over. Purrysburg had to file claims for what the military took. The Purrysburg families loaned servants to each other. Maroons, previous slaves who left in the war, remained escaped living together.

After the American Revolution, South Carolina purchased each other's land and houses and married among themselves. President George Washington visited Purrysburg in spring 1791. The advent of steamboats and the onslaught of stagecoaches were created for usage with the Savannah River.

Sherman demolished Purrysburg completely in the Civil War. No town remained. The town had been lessening due to people building plantations on the outskirts. The conclusion, interestingly, states over the years, there were different spellings of Purrysburg because people were from different countries.

Professor Arlin C. Migliazzo is a history professor at Whitworth College in Spokane Washington. Two other monographs by Migliazzo are *Teaching as an Act of Faith: Theory and Practice in Church-Related Higher Education* and *Lands of True and Certain Bounty: the Geographical Theories and Colonization Strategies of Jean Pierre Purry*. *To Make This Land Our Own* is of paramount importance and indispensably priceless to South Carolina historians and tremendously invaluable to any academic library, public library, or southern United States history collection.

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