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## Book Review: How Kentucky Became Southern

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## BOOK REVIEWS

*Discovering South Carolina's Rock Art.* Charles, Tommy. Columbia, SC: University of South Carolina Press, 2010. 168 pages. ISBN 978-1570039218 (Hardcover). \$29.95.

Books about petroglyphs and rock paintings in the Southeastern United States are few and far between. The scarcity of published materials on this topic possibly reflects the fact that Southeastern petroglyphs and rock paintings themselves tend to be rarely found and are often far less well-preserved than those located in other regions of the country, most notably the Southwest. In fact, until the 1980s, it was widely believed that the state of South Carolina did not contain examples of any prehistoric rock art at all. This book is the first to focus solely on South Carolina's rock art, and nowhere else will such an extensive survey be found.

Author Tommy Charles was involved with the South Carolina Rock Art Survey project from its very beginnings in Greenville County in 1983. This book chronicles the project, which led to the eventual documentation of sixty-one petroglyph sites, three pictograph sites, and numerous portable petroglyphs found primarily in South Carolina's upstate region. The book's many photographs, some in color, do an excellent job of illustrating both the process of discovery and numerous excellent examples of the art itself.

Tommy Charles joined the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology (SCIAA) at the University of South Carolina in 1979 and became a member of the SCIAA Research Division in 1993. Now retired, he worked on many research projects with the institute over the years. Today he still continues his research into prehistoric Native American culture in the South Carolina upstate region.

This book is essential for South Carolina libraries, especially those with collections in Native American studies, South Carolina history, archaeology, and anthropology. Other Southeastern libraries with collections in these subject areas should also consider acquiring this title.

Allison Faix  
Coastal Carolina University, SC.

*How Kentucky Became Southern: A Tale of Outlaws, Horse Thieves, Gamblers, and Breeders.* Wall, MaryJean. Lexington: The University Press of Kentucky, 2010. 291 pages. ISBN 978-0-8131-2605-0. (hardcover: alk.paper). \$29.95.

*How Kentucky Became Southern: a Tale of Outlaws, Horse Thieves, Gamblers, and Breeders* is a superior magnum opus supplying a phenomenal amount of research on horse racing not only in Kentucky but in all areas of the United States. The monograph includes Introduction, the excellent chapters Chapter One The Fast Track into the Future, Chapter Two The Greening of the Bluegrass, Chapter Three A Killing Spree and a Hanging Tree, Chapter Four All the Best Jockeys of the West are Colored, Chapter Five Old Money Meets the Arrivistes, Chapter Six Winners and Losers in the Age of Reform, Chapter Seven The Idea of Horse Country Reclaimed, Notes, Selected Bibliography, and a precise index. The outstanding work has connection to southern USA in that the publication superbly explains how Kentucky, which did not secede during the Civil War, is thought of as a southern state.

People read to shut out the pioneering machine period and associated worker fights that reduced tranquility. Literature glamorized Kentucky describing palaces with columns, mint juleps, and majestic horse development areas and terrain. The absolute opposite was portrayed in newspapers with revelations of Kentucky murders, dangerous crowds, night horse riders burning farms, horse thefts, and mountain kin arguing. The 1900s' Kentucky authors conveyed beautiful landscapes and regal castles accompanying elaborate lucrative horse development facilities to represent Kentucky as similar to the South with

plantations before the Civil War in a favorable manner.

Annie Fellows Johnston's *The Little Colonel*, James Lane Allen's *Two Kentucky Gentlemen of the Old School*, and John Fox Junior's *The Little Shepherd of Kingdom Come* are Kentucky authors' prose depicting Kentucky as Southern. *Country Estates of the Bluegrass* by Thomas A. Knight 1905 revealed to the world pictures of the divine Kentucky horse country. Articles from Kentucky's Benjamin Bruce and Sanders Bruce periodical *Turf, Field, and Farm* intelligently chronicled horses. Civil War General George Armstrong Custer produced five articles for *Turf, Field, and Farm* promoting Kentucky. A theatrical performance using six genuine thoroughbreds titled *In Old Kentucky* 1893-1894 showed in New York, Chicago, and Boston and as a 1935 silent movie resulting in Kentucky's image of horse racing, family fights, danger, colonels, and fine ladies transpiring.

The perceived interest to the readership of the book is superlative since the exciting topic of race horses, lavish homes in the southern state Kentucky, and particularly the spectacular renowned Kentucky Derby, are embraced. The writing style is articulate. Forty-seven pictures, disclosing the story of Kentucky being southern, consist of opulent homes where race horses developed such as Woodburn Farm, Elmendorf Farm, Nashville's Belle Meade and photographs of important individuals and horses like Man o' War, John E. Madden, August Belmont, and Robert Aitcheson Alexander. Lexington's Hamburg Place, a race horse ranch, was compared to Tara in *Gone with the Wind*. Elite horses were Asteroid, Kentucky, Old Rosebud, Regret, and Man o' War. August Belmont II fostered Lexington's Man o' War acknowledged as the best United States thoroughbred. Black jockeys were race horse riders initially then replaced by Caucasians. The celebrated Negro Isaac Murphy was in the Jockey Hall of Fame for three Kentucky Derby victories.

Quest for more wealth by horse races involved betting, rigging, paying to lose, and medicating horses. Betting came to Kentucky horse racing from New York in 1873. The Progressives started attempts to eliminate horse racing because beliefs were that betting with horse racing was damaging the United States. New York legally stopped horse racing and betting from 1910-1913. The Kentucky Racing Commission was able to keep Kentucky horse racing going despite New York's failure with horse racing between 1910 and 1913.

Limestone and phosphate twelve feet in the earth from spineless creatures in the Ordovician time four hundred sixty million years previously crashing on Kentucky geography with the making of North America in the continental divide generate robust horses, sheep, cattle, Kentucky whiskey, and humans. The limestone boosted grass strengthening Kentucky appears blue in the morning ensuing in Kentucky's title bluegrass country. The East had greater funds from the industry for horse racing in New York, the east, and Kentucky than Kentucky. Kentucky kept interest in Kentucky horses from Eastern and other investors by speaking of the bluegrass that attributes to healthier horses. Academic and public libraries will enrich their library collections by adding the marvelous and essential monograph *How Kentucky Became Southern: A Tale of Outlaws, Horse Thieves, Gamblers, and Breeders* resplendent with a wealth of specifics on horse racing in Kentucky and other areas of the United States.

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