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## REVIEW: Southern Bedtime Stories

Shelley L. Smith  
*University of West Georgia*

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relationship to another Carroll County resident (e.g., cf. "J. T. Musick"). The work will be of particular interest to genealogists and historians of Carroll County, Ga. A total of 212 men are profiled. Black-and-white portrait reproductions of 13 men accompany their sketch and are a nice touch. The biographical sketches detail the family members of the individuals profiled, of course, so in that way, women are represented. The source for each biography is noted at the end of each sketch.

House credits Ozzie Binion for the layout of this volume, but it leaves something to be desired. The text is too tight to the binding (typically 1 centimeter or less), while the outer margin is too large (typically 6 and one-half centimeters). If users of the work wish to photocopy a sketch, it may be difficult to get a page printed in its entirety, and the need to press the inner pages down on the copier will tear up the book over time. It would have been better if the main text was moved 4 centimeters closer to the edge of the page; perhaps that could be achieved in a subsequent printing. The volume is nicely finished in a quality hard binding. This adds to the cost of the volume, but it will allow the book to hold up on library shelves for years to come — a wise decision. A must-purchase for Georgia genealogical and local history collections. ►►

— Reviewed by **Shelley L. Smith**  
Senior Cataloger  
University of West Georgia

**Southern Bedtime Stories** by Tim McWhorter (Hearts on Fire Books, 2009; ISBN 978-1449590666, \$19.99)

Native West Georgian Tim McWhorter has done what many long to do, but never accomplish: putting the stories of your childhood and the tales of life lessons learned along the way down



in black and white. To this Yankee gal, this book reads like a primer on the mysterious creature known as the Southern man. It's all here: hemorrhoids, jock straps, urination, animal breeding, girls, moonshine stills, snakes, firecrackers, cats and sandboxes, telephoning fish, spotlighting deer and plenty of football, just to name a few ... all the traditional sources of male humor delivered by a man who grew up in Bowdon, Ga., as part of the baby boomer generation.

McWhorter tells of a time of innocence before the digital age. It's a slice of life, usually humorous, sometimes sentimental, occasionally preachy and potentially offensive. This is not eloquent, polished prose. McWhorter simply tells his stories as though he's sitting right next to you, speaking extemporaneously. Some editorial work would have been advisable here, as the text presents "your" for "you're"; "bridal" for "bridle"; "waist" for "waste"; "loosing" for "losing" (he does that one a great deal!); "stake" for "steak"; "roll" for "role"; "poll" for "pole"; "sowing" for "sewing" ... you get the idea. He notes in the dedication that the stories "are not up to professional grade in respect to proper English guidelines," but reflect the Southern dialect. A Southern dialect is fine, but malapropisms might have been corrected before publication.

Nonetheless, the charm of this book comes through despite the lack of editorial finesse. Mark Twain he's not, but his stories reflect his time and an utterly male point of view that will be timeless. Folks a hundred or two years from now could enjoy these stories. Southern men today will find his stories hilarious, and women will gain fresh insights. Recommended for general library fiction collections. ►►

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