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Book Review: The Origins of Southern Evangelicalism: Religious Revivalism in the South Carolina Lowcountry

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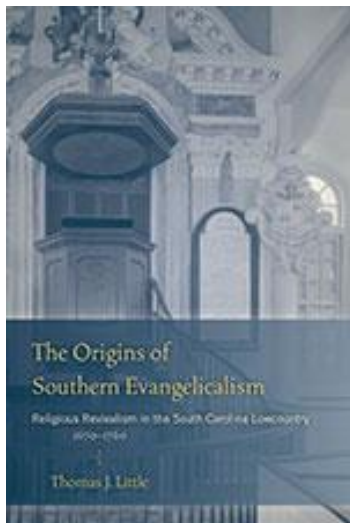
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Gleason, Errol Flynn, John Candy, Richard Thomas, and singing with Dinah Shore, Bob Hope, Perry Como, and Andy Williams.

O'Hara was most fond of working with John Wayne. Maureen O'Hara vacationed with John Ford on his yacht Araner on Catalina Island near California. O'Hara dated Enrique Parra from Mexico. Maureen O'Hara resided with her second husband Will Price at their Bel Air palatial house until they divorced. Her third and favorite husband, Charlie Blair owned a plane company she assisted with while residing together in St. Croix Virgin Islands. Clearly, the perceived interest to the readership of the journal is excellent. The priceless jewel biography on the resplendent actress Maureen O'Hara is invaluable to public and academic libraries.

Melinda F. Matthews
University of Louisiana at Monroe Library

The Origins of Southern Evangelicalism: Religious Revivalism in the South Carolina Lowcountry. By Thomas J. Little. Columbia, SC: University of South Carolina Press, 2013. ISBN 978-1-61117-274-4. 296 p. \$49.95.



Reading and viewing the promotion for this book, I was

most fascinated by the cover art as it reminded me of one of the oldest churches in Charleston, South Carolina, with its elevated and beautifully carved pulpit which I have often admired. As I leafed through the pages, I noted that the text of the book covered 190 pages and the reference notes and bibliography covered 90 pages! My reaction was that anyone fascinated by the title of the book and wanting to consider it as a reference guide on religious revivalism in South Carolina might snap it up and add it to an academic collection.

However, my fascination with it truly came upon reading through the various chapters that focused on South Carolina's religious awakening between and during 1670 and 1760. Growing up in a small town that was considered located in both North Carolina and South Carolina (Kings Mountain), I carry a lot of emotions and beliefs about how religion shaped my community in my lifetime between 1941 and 1970. A little town of many small Baptist churches, one Episcopal Church, one Catholic church, one or two Presbyterian churches, one or two Methodist churches, a Church of God, an ARP church and a small number of African Methodist Episcopal churches gave me grave concerns as I watched the conflicts and separateness and prejudices that surrounded various church members and their families. (A subjective note: I admit I usually will read a text such as this and try to find some way to relate to the history that is laid before me-very subjective of me).

Dr. Little's colorful and enlightening historical descriptions of those days of the years between 1670 and 1760 lay out his points that the South Carolina low country teemed with a plethora of evangelicalism activities -- eye opening to me. Often during my growing up years of 1941 through 1971, I asked my parents why we have so many churches and why African Americans didn't attend our churches and our public schools.....! was told "they like their own kind". Professor Little's research and publication of his fine book gave me more detailed answers to my questions from those long ago days-evangelicalism as it arose brought together like minded people who prized their opportunity for a religious experience free of diverse opinions.

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