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Book Review: The Market Preparation of Carolina Rice: An Illustrated History of Innovation in the Lowcountry Rice Kingdom

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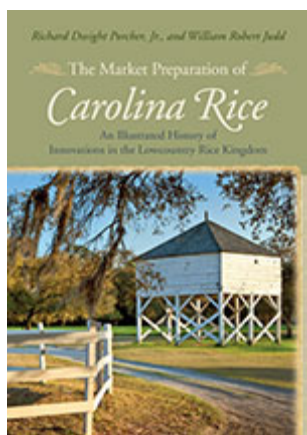
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and hope is what drives activists—hope for a better future, hope that a better future can be possible, hope that injustices can be changed. A river is a good metaphor because it is long and continuous—the black freedom struggle has been long but one of hope. And a river is alive—as I say in my conclusion African Americans today still are not in an equal social position compared to whites, the struggle like the river continues. A river metaphor is also especially pertinent to Memphis given its sits on the banks of the Mississippi River.” (email 8/10/14)

I recommend you add this book to your reference library. It contains political events and personal histories of individuals that made significant impacts in the struggle for civil rights in Memphis, There are excellent end notes, a bibliography, an index (pgs. 327-355) and a selection of photographs (p.136-) of prominent black citizens who were highlighted in the text.

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The Market Preparation of Carolina Rice: An Illustrated History of Innovation in the Lowcountry Rice Kingdom. Richard Dwight Porcher, Jr., and William Robert Judd. Columbia, SC: University of South Carolina Press, 2014 ISBN 978-1-61117-351-2. 408 p. \$49.95.



As I open and turn the pages of this 379 page historical scholarly tome, I am constantly surprised with the documentary writing, the black and white machine and equipment drawings, the beautiful color plates, and pages of charts, lists and data.

The title of this research, “The Market Preparation of Carolina Rice: An illustrated History of Innovations in the Lowcountry Rice Kingdom”, appealed to me on a very personal level: I love rice! I love South Carolina’s restored rice plantations.

My travels to rice plantations located along the South Carolina coast on summer and winter travels and on visits

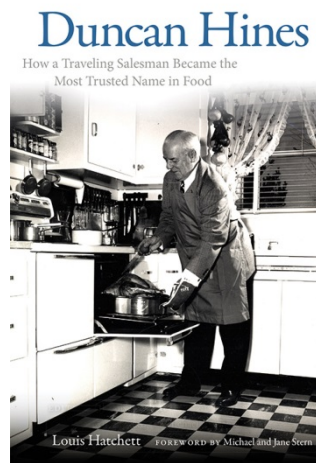
to family and friends did not prepare me for the depth and dedication that Richard Dwight Porcher, Jr., and William Robert Judd poured into this priceless work. I expected to see some steaming bowls of rice or some beautifully laden southern dinner tables as that is how I glorify rice. I did not expect to see machinery, storage bins, steam engines and water wheels, threshing barns and rolling screens. Nor did I expect to read of the socio-economic and political scars of the Civil War upon the rice culture and the rise and demise of labor and poverty among the people involved in the industry that comprised the rice culture.

Through words, ideas, visual representations and emotional descriptions, I gained a new impression of my favorite food. I also gained a sense of the importance of the rice culture in our South Carolina Lowcountry history. My husband tells me that his Mother’s family home in Pamplico, S.C., served rice with every meal and to him, now 75 years old, rice is a distinct staple in our house. To me, It is a joyful gift brought to us over the years by the people who worked to develop and where possible sustain the rice culture in our Lowcountry rice kingdom.

Anyone interested in pursuing research into the economic, cultural and historical development of the lowcountry of Carolina rice must consider this a required research tome.

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Duncan Hines: How a Traveling Salesman Became the Most Trusted Name in Food. Hatchett, Louis. Lexington, KY: University Press of Kentucky, 2014. ISBN 978-0-8131-4459-7 (pbk.: alk. paper); ISBN 978-0-8131-4484-9 (pdf); ISBN 978-0-8131-4483-2 (epub). 325 p. \$19.95.



This entertaining book recounts the life and remarkable career of Duncan Hines, a native of Bowling Green, KY. Unlike Betty Crocker, a fictional identity crafted by General Mills to symbolize the company’s “helpfulness, trustworthiness, and quality,” (“General Mills History of Innovation: the History of Betty Crocker,”