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The Diary of Nannie Gaskins Williams: A Southern Woman's Story of Rebellion and Reconstruction, 1863-1890

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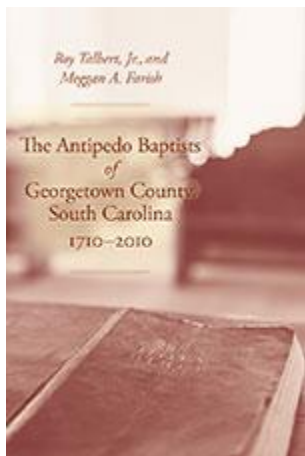
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Miller's version became the iconic image of female war workers (p. 18).

The "Rosie" song goes: "All day long, whether sun or shine, she is a part of the assembly line, She's making history, working for victory...."(p. 18).

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The Antipedo Baptists of Georgetown South Carolina 1710-2010. Roy Talbert, Jr., and Meggan A. Parish
Columbia: The University of South Carolina Press, 2015. ISBN 978-1-61117-420-5. 192p. \$34.95.



"The Antipedo Baptists of Georgetown, South Carolina, 1710-2010" is a compiled history of the founding and flourishing of the First Baptist Church of Georgetown, South Carolina. From research that covered three hundred years of "tumultuous" social, political and cultural struggles (New Book News USC Press), Roy Talbert, Jr. and Meggan A. Parish present an easily readable and fascinating book. Beginning with an effort in Charleston and moving to Georgetown, the Baptist faith flourished, Talbert and Parish credit this as mainly due in the early years to high numbers of African American slaves.

The book will be of great interest to any past relatives or current members of The Antipedo Baptist Church, and now the First Baptist Church of Georgetown. Of equal value is the critical research for students and academic scholars whose focus may encompass religious and social science contexts of the 300 years recounted here.

One mystery to me was the book title, "The Antipedo Baptists of Georgetown, South Carolina, 1710-2010". I knew nothing about the title attached to the early years of this founding faith in Charleston. I learned "antipedo" is an archaic term meaning opposition to infant baptism (p. I, Introduction).

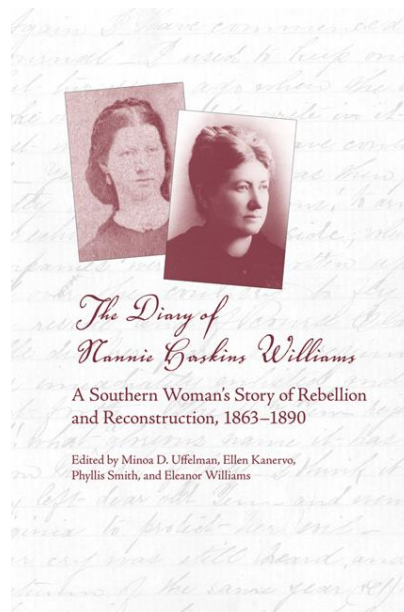
Why? What was the reasoning behind highlighting this particular belief in the founding of the 1710 Antipedo Baptist Church? Cursory reviews of folklore reveal that it

might be connected to whether babies are born "afflicted by sin" or born with "free will"washed clean by submerging in water or simply named and blessed by sprinkling with water on the head. In Talbert and Parish's research, I did not see my questions addressed. However, I did note that the progression from Antipedo Baptists to Free Will Baptists arose as the church developed over the years, finally ending with just "Baptist".

Notes, Bibliography and Index may be found in pages 133 to 179 and provide excellent primary resources for teachers, faculty and students of religious studies.

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The Diary of Nannie Gaskins Williams A Southern Woman's Story of Rebellion and Reconstruction, 1863-1890. Edited by Minoa D. Uffelman, Ellen Kanervo, Phyllis Smith and Eleanor Williams. Knoxville: The University of Tennessee Press, 2014. ISBN 1-62190-038-X. \$34.95.



"The Diary of Nannie Gaskins Williams A Southern Woman's Story of Rebellion and Reconstruction, 1863-1890" is an intriguing publication, a part of "The Voices of the Civil War" series. Editors include Minoa D. Uffelman, Ellen Kanervo, Phyllis Smith and Eleanor Williams. Published by the University of Tennessee Press Knoxville 2014, the publication includes a classical group of photographs of the Gaskins and Williams families, soldiers, related structures and public buildings—a rich group of primary source material for students and researchers of Civil War history. The format of the writings flow easily from month to month and year to year, organized by day—1863 to 1890.

Nannie Gaskins Williams was born on May 25, 1846. Nannie was the daughter of a highly respected physician and socially prominent mother. She was educated at Clarksville Female Academy and became a staunch supporter of the Confederacy, and described in the Foreword as an “ardent Confederate”. Nannie lost two brothers in Civil War battles which heightened her passion for providing love and care for Confederate soldiers.

At 16, Nannie began to write recollections of the experiences she observed and learned of as the battles and war progressed around her. When compared with other women writers of memoirs or diaries, Nannie’s writings cover the Civil War’s beginning, during the Civil War and Post Civil War challenges during post-Reconstruction.

Through her writing, Nannie presented a revealing look at the daily life of a family and community between 1863 and 1890. Married to N.P. Williams, “a man of a large and prominent family connection” (p. 203) in Clarksville and Nashville, Nannie was mother to 10 children, managed life on a large family farm, managed and cared for slaves, while involving herself and her children in the lives of their communities. Many of the entries in her diary reveal details of her family and social life.

Due to the wealth of resources included in the text, this book is highly recommended for faculty and students of women’s studies, and Civil War history. A Conclusion begins on page 201, followed by Appendix 1 and 2, Notes p. 217, Bibliography p. 333, Index p.345 and ending at p. 371.

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