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BOOK REVIEWS


William Penn in this detailed account of the Civil War period of 1861-1864 in Kentucky tells us that President Abraham Lincoln wrote “I hope to have God on my side, but I must have Kentucky”. Penn goes on to explain “the success of Lincoln’s objective (in the Civil War) heavily relied on securing the Kentucky Central Railroad to allow the timely movement of Federal troops and supplies” (UK Press release 10/7/2016).

The town of Cynthiana and Harrison County, known as rebel strongholds became the focus of bloody battles. Cynthiana was described as an area of only 1000 residents. Two battles ensued, according to Penn, one in 1862 and one in 1864, leading eventually to the “rebel” town of Cynthiana destroyed in flames and all buildings of the center of town destroyed. Penn says, “over time, the town managed to rebuild what was lost in the fire, but the memory of neighbor fighting neighbor still echoes in the community to this day” (UK Press release 10/7/2016).

The highlights of Penn’s scholarly research and his presentation center on a wide variety of sources that are contained in the Appendix (p.279-282), Acknowledgements (p.283-284), Notes (p. 285-356), and the Index (p. 357-374). Maps of the region are included. A Civil War Scholar or student will find a rich documentation of this period of Kentucky history. Illustrations include some leading citizens’ and soldiers’ portraits, strategic buildings, bridges, a church, a hotel, the Harrison County Courthouse, and the cemetery where deceased Confederate soldiers were buried (p. 174). Recommend purchase for historic sites, universities, and archives and history collectors (particularly Civil War research).

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North Carolina’s Roadside Eateries is a joyful book using positive cheerful writing to reveal marvelous terrific eating establishments in beautiful North Carolina around interstate twenty-six, interstate forty, interstates seventy-three and seventy-four, interstate seventy-seven, interstate eighty-five, and interstate ninety-five. One hundred seventeen half a page to two page descriptions of restaurants abound. North Carolina Bookwatch television program broadcasted by University of North Carolina is presented by the author D.G. Martin. D.G. Martin was an attorney in Charlotte, North Carolina and creates a column that is in forty North Carolina newspapers every week. He also served as a University of North Carolina vice president. The writing style encourages customers to drop in to get a bite to eat at the delightful eateries mostly offering country cuisine and barbecue. The narrative of each eatery includes the name of the restaurant in bold, the physical street address, city, and zip code. Telephone number, prices, an internet website when available, and times serving are also shared. A history of the restaurant is covered. The directions from the interstate are also provided. Five detailed maps show restaurants along the interstates using dots, numbers, restaurant names, and interstate numerals. “After eating” cordially gives other enchanting places near the restaurant to visit.
Some of the illustrious restaurants are as follows. Charlotte North Carolina’s Open Kitchen imparts heavenly Italian fare. Southern Living commends the barbecue at Allen & Son’s in Chapel Hill and at Fuller’s Old Fashioned Bar-B-Q in Lumberton. Additionally, Southern Living praised the pimento cheese at Broad Street Deli and Market in Dunn. The monograph Literary Trails of Eastern North Carolina by Georgann Eubanks brings to light the chicken salad is super at Lumberton’s Candy Sue’s Restaurant. Likewise, Garden & Gun noted Red Bridges Barbecue Lodge of Shelby has top barbecue. What’s more, the buffet filled with eighty entries at Pioneer Family Restaurant and Steakhouse in Archdale is superior. Brunswick soup at Allen & Son’s in Chapel Hill is excellent. Also, Durham’s Saltbox Seafood Joint offers an impressive variety of unique seafood. Jack’s Barbecue in Gibsonville is famous for Jack’s big boy large burger. A yummy slaw burger is a must at R.O.’s Bar-B-Cue in Gastonia. Former President Clinton, Former President Reagan, and Former President Bush Senior dined at Hursey’s Pig-Pickin’ Bar-B-Q of Burlington known for choice barbecue. Elizabeth Karmel, a chef in New York, commended Parker’s Barbecue in Wilson North Carolina is unsurpassed in fried chicken in Saveur May 2015. Wilmington’s Caseys Buffet is superb supplying a soul fare buffet and fried okra. Paul’s Place Famous Hot Dogs in Rocky Point is paramount for great hot dogs. Cabbage is fantastic at Toot-n-Tell Restaurant in Garner. Linda’s in Pembroke is well-liked for their country cookery buffet. Ward’s Grill of Saluda is popular for sausage seasoned with sage. Smith’s Red and White Restaurant in Rocky Mount D.G. Martin likes for scrumptious squash, excellent rutabagas, and select cheese biscuits. Kepley’s Bar-B-Q comes up with outstanding barbecue. Moose Café in Asheville produces very good apple butter. Pam’s Farmhouse Restaurant in Raleigh engages in fine country fare bringing forth first-rate red eye gravy. North Carolina State Farmer’s Market in Raleigh is the cream of the crop in southern cuisine because of their at best. Raleigh features the elite North Carolina Seafood Restaurant and Market. Angelo’s Family Restaurant in Graham has crème de la crème Italian cooking.

A few blissful locations off the interstates remarked on are Biltmore Hotel, Gardens of Sarah Duke from Duke University, Duke University Chapel, Arlie Gardens, an 1810 Dortches House of Federal Decorations on the National Register of Historical Places, Ava Gardner Museum, and Andy Griffith’s residence Mount Airy. Twenty black and white interesting photographs enhance the descriptions of the heavenly dining halls. This magnificent handbook illustrating tasty eateries and chosen locations in gloriously picturesque North Carolina is a must for academic and public libraries.

In this beautifully illustrated children’s book, The Egret’s Plume, author Archibald Rutledge, penned many years ago, this “cautionary tale exalting the virtues of good sportsmanship, conservation of the natural world, and the universality of parental instincts”. (Dust jacket USC Press)

Today that story is brought to life again through the University of South Carolina Press and the South Carolina Humanities Council’s literacy programs. A tale that first appeared in a boy’s magazine, it highlighted the tragic practice of killing egrets to harvest their feathery plumes. The reader is taken from the swamps of Florida where egrets escape hunters to land in the South Carolina low country swamps. Soon tragedy appears. For children who read this story or listen to it read to them, it is easy to see the author wanted to explain moral decision making and demonstrate parental love that has no boundaries whether humans or egrets.

Recommended for any children’s collection of short stories, for additional reading in teaching and sharing moral tales, and for studies of writers and their craft.

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