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South Carolina in the Civil War and Reconstruction Eras: Essays from the Proceedings of the South Carolina Historical Association

Tim Dodge
Auburn University

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its wonders. If access to nature and encouragement to explore are precursors to genius, Wilma Dykeman was blessed by her parents, who actively supported her examination of the world around her. Dykeman's lyrical prose depicting the changes wrought on the landscape by the seasons as well as everyday scenic views show her early promise as a writer.

Dykeman creates a captivating picture of the family's cosy log cabin situated in the pines by Beaverdam creek. Here was where her mother built the fires and cooked with the wood range that cast a soft glow in the evenings, filling the air with savory aromas from the dishes on the warmer. Here was where her parents sat in the evenings, reading and discussing what they'd read. The cabin was Dykeman's sanctuary, where she could find stillness and comfort to reflect on the day.

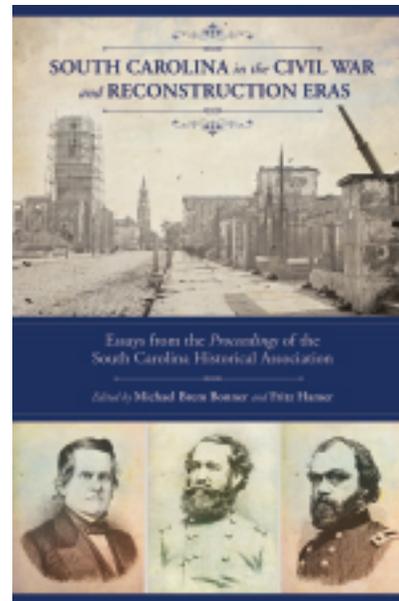
Her father endowed her with a love of the outdoors through nature walks and gardening and taught her the importance of treating everyone equally with kindness and respect. Though aloof in his relations with the community, he modeled a code of gentlemanly civility, courteous to all. The author's mother, born in the mountains, encouraged her to learn from others and respect their uniqueness and idiosyncrasies. Both parents were avid readers and fostered the love for reading in Wilma. While individuals from Wilma's family and community are rendered with empathy – her aunt Maude, both romantic and superstitious and her grandmother, lacking security, but strong in inner faith – Wilma noted that people played but a small part in her childhood memories; it was the concrete world around her that sparked her imagination.

Tapping into Dykeman's regional roots, this memoir explores Appalachian issues through the eyes of a young girl. Financial poverty, as portrayed through a tentative friendship with a young mountain girl, thin and wiry, grabbing meat from their table with her hands. Educational poverty, through recognition that her family was different with their emphasis on reading and appreciation of nature. Wilma's childhood both exposed and insulated her from the Appalachian culture of her community, but ultimately inspired her to write novels and nonfiction highlighting Appalachia's struggles - changing attitudes and fostering empathy for its people.

Highly recommended for all collections.

Melanie Dunn
University of Tennessee at Chattanooga

South Carolina in the Civil War and Reconstruction Eras: Essays from the Proceedings of the South Carolina Historical Association by Michael Brem Bonner and Fritz Hamer, editors. Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 2016. ISBN: 978-61117-664-3 (cloth); 978-61117-665-0 (paperback); and 978-61117-666-7 (ebook). \$49.99 (hard); \$29.99 (pbk); \$29.99 (ebook). 177p.



This volume of collected essays provides an excellent sampler of historical scholarship concerning South Carolina in the Civil War and Reconstruction eras published between 1942 and 2010. The two dozen essays are fairly brief (most are around 10 pages or so) and represent evolving historical scholarship as presented at annual meetings of the South Carolina Historical Association. Eminent scholars including Dan T. Carter, Orville V. Burton, and Frank Vandiver are represented; there is only one essay by a female scholar, Patricia D. Bonnin. The book is divided into five thematic sections in chronological order ranging from “The Politics of Secession and Civil War” to “The Politics of Reconstruction.” Those readers most interested in military history will be disappointed to find there are only two essays found under the section “On the Battlefield.” Those readers seeking an analysis of the politics of the era and scholarly interpretations of race relations and African American history will not be disappointed.

Although this is a collection of essays rather than a comprehensive history of South Carolina during the Civil War and Reconstruction era, certain basic themes and personalities emerge and appear in more than one essay. African American political empowerment is one of the major themes and it appears in several essays. Perhaps the most engaging is “Edgefield Reconstruction: Political Black Leaders” by Orville V. Burton (1988). South Carolina had a significant black population mostly located in the Low Country and coastal areas whereas Edgefield was located in the northwestern rural “Upcountry” area. Burton's analysis of the successful (if temporary) rise of African American political leaders there is inspiring. Layton W. Jordan investigates “an extraordinary, if incomplete, expansion of this new freedom” (174) in “The New Regime: Race, Politics, and Police in Reconstruction Charleston, 1865 – 1875” (1994).

Not surprisingly, white resistance to and anger over the rise of African American political leaders is featured in several essays and is largely what powered the political career of Wade Hampton, who would soon prove to be a major force in the successful dismantling of Reconstruction. However, as Lewie Reece points out in his 2003 essay, "Righteous Lives: A Comparative Study of the South Carolina Scalawag Leadership during Reconstruction," native white Southerners could work cooperatively and positively with African Americans. Unfortunately, a combination of racism, Democratic opposition to Republicans, and anger at federal control as manifested by Reconstruction policies, helped overthrow South Carolina's brief, promising experiment in racial equality.

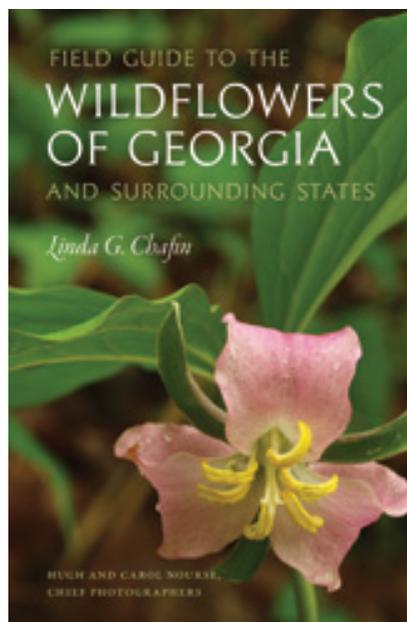
One of the main personalities involved in the overthrow of Reconstruction was Wade Hampton, the subject of two essays ("Wade Hampton and the Rise of One-Party Racial Orthodoxy in South Carolina" published by Richard M. Gergel in 1971 and "Wade Hampton: Conflicted Leader of the Conservative Democracy?" published by Fritz Hamer in 2007). Mention of Hampton also appears in other essays. While Hampton alone cannot be said to be the sole cause of the end of Reconstruction, his cynical use of populist political techniques, cooptation of African Americans by claiming to represent their interests, and his use of the Red Shirt militia gangs to intimidate opponents and, especially, African Americans, and political dirty tricks to ensure Republican office holders were fatally weakened, makes for discouraging reading. Political dirty tricks included such actions as locking Republican state office holders out of their offices, decreasing the number of polling places, and intimidating African Americans into joining the Democratic Party (201,202, and 204).

The growing weakness of Republican political office holders is manifest in the sad story of "Governor Chamberlain and the End of Reconstruction" by Robert J. Moore (1977). Chamberlain was a northern "carpetbagger" from Massachusetts, a white abolitionist who had served as an officer in an African American Union regiment. Unfortunately, his political power and will to resist the machinations of Wade Hampton and his supporters were not strong and the ambivalent results of the gubernatorial election of 1876 meant that South Carolina had two governors in office at once (256). Also, Chamberlain was no longer able to count on federal support. On April 11, 1877 Chamberlain finally gave up the struggle to remain in power: "The drama of Reconstruction closed with undramatic compliance by southern Republicans to the nation's loss of will to enforce majority rule in South Carolina" (254).

South Carolina in the Civil War and Reconstruction Eras: Essays from the Proceedings of the South Carolina Historical Association would fit in well with academic and large public library collections featuring Civil War and Reconstruction, and Southern history.

Tim Dodge
Auburn University

Field Guide to the Wildflowers of Georgia and Surrounding States by Chafin, Linda G. Hugh and Carol Nourse, Photographers. Athens, GA: University of Georgia Press, 2016. ISBN 978-0-8203-4868-1. \$32.95 paperback. 488 p.



The work is about beautiful wildflowers Georgia and the southern states South Carolina, Virginia, Tennessee, Florida, Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi, Kentucky, and North Carolina. The author, Linda G. Chafin is a Georgia State Botanical Garden expert employee in botany. Further masterpieces by the photographers Hugh and Carol Nourse include *Favorite Wildflower Walks in Georgia* and *The State Botanical Garden of Georgia*.

The content comprises Contents, Acknowledgments, Introduction, Who Can Use This Guide?, What Is a Wildflower?, Wildflower Conservation, How This Guide Is Organized, Natural Communities in Georgia, Best Places and Months to See Wildflowers in Georgia, A Few Words about Pronouncing Plant Names, How to Read the Species Descriptions, Species Descriptions, Color Thumbnails: White, Yellow, Orange, Red and Maroon, Pink, Magenta, and Lavender, Blue to Bluish-Purple, Purple and Violet, Green and Brown, Glossary, References, Image Credits, and Index. The work reveals seven hundred seventy stunning wildflowers and five hundred thirty flowers along roads and woods and in parks in Georgia and close states readers can learn to recognize and enjoy. The writing style is dynamic.

The tour de force is divided into sections dicots wildflowers having two seeds and monocots having one seed. Each description of the flowers discloses a bright alluring photograph, where the wildflower is located, the length of the stalks, and the length of the leaves. Additionally covered are size, color, and look of flowers. More data is on when blossoming and fruit occurs. The descriptions end with a mention of a related delightful