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The Spark of Learning: Emerging the College Classroom with the Science of Emotion

Carol Walker Jordan

University of North Carolina at Greensboro

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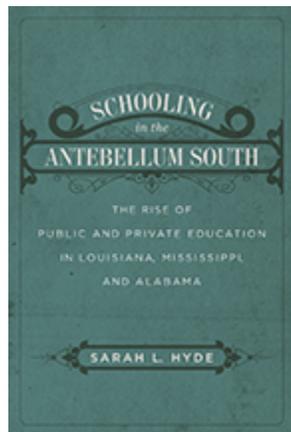
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Schooling in the Antebellum South: The Rise of Public and Private Education in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. Sarah L. Hyde. Baton Rouge: LSU Press, 2017. ISBN 978-0-8071-6420-4. 240p. \$42.50



In her Acknowledgements, Sarah Hyde, an Assistant Professor of History at River Parishes Community College, in Sorrento, Louisiana, shares her appreciation for faculty of the graduate studies program of the Louisiana State University History Department. Hyde says she attended a research seminar during her first year of graduate studies that sparked her desire to continue research. She goes on to express deep gratitude to the faculty in her Department who advised and challenged her, advising her that her work was “worthy of publication”.

Her new book, *Schooling in the Antebellum South*, is the result of determined research. Hyde says “early travelers through the south created the myth of inhabitants being shiftless bumpkins content with illiteracy and ignorance” (p.1). To counter the myth, Hyde “explored educational developments in the Gulf South as (they) progressed in fits and starts throughout the antebellum years”. (p. 6) Hyde’s research of the years 1820 to 1860 uncovered various types of educational developments that arose in the Gulf States of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama.

Hyde reveals in her research the importance of the “role of learning” in the Gulf coast states. Hyde contrasts the historical focus on higher education along the East Coast with public secondary education on the Gulf Coast. The antebellum passion in the Gulf Coast states was for public secondary education.

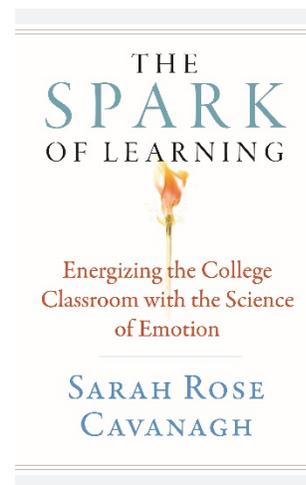
In her Chapters, Hyde shows how the citizens of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama, valued teaching and learning through support for 1) “ Learning Inside the Home, 2) Private Education in the Gulf South, 3) Early Efforts toward Public Schools, 4) Urban Public Schools, and finally 5) Establishment of Statewide Public School Systems in the Gulf South.” (xi)

An interesting read and a great example of how a graduate research study can become a valuable manuscript ready for publication as a text. Pages of Notes and an Index provide

valuable resources to students, faculty and researchers of educational development in the Gulf Coast in Antebellum South.

Carol Walker Jordan.
University of North Carolina at Greensboro

The Spark of Learning: Energizing the College Classroom with the Science of Emotion. Sarah Rose Cavanagh. Morgantown: West Virginia University Press, 2016. ISBN 978-1-943665-33-4 (pbk.) \$22.99; 978-1-943665-32-7 (cloth) \$79.99; 978-1943665-34-1 (epub) \$22.99; 978-1-943665-35-8 (pdf) \$22.99. 256 p.



Sarah Rose Cavanagh’s newly published book, *The Spark of Learning: Energizing the College Classroom with the Science of Emotion*, appealed to me as I surveyed recently published books on teaching and learning. Was the science of emotion, as Cavanagh revealed it, to be dull and analytical or does she expand on the ideas of teaching methods that provide a “spark” to engage faculty and students more fully in learning?

As I transitioned from a position I held as a counselor and accepted opportunities to teach, I was captivated by the articles and books that encouraged teachers to avoid boring lecture methods and embrace ideas associated with entertaining and guiding student learning. Twenty years ago, a small article by Alison King appeared in the journal *College Teaching*. It was titled “From Sage on the Stage to Guide on the Side”. This suggested shift encouraged teachers to connect to the emotions of their students through drama, music, creative approaches to the subject and role playing.

Sarah Cavanagh has gone beyond the concept of the “Edutainer” and provided a science foundation for the importance of understanding emotions and how those can enhance student learning. Cavanagh says: “ if we want to truly motivate and educate our students, we are much better off targeting their emotions. In making this argument I will bring to bear evidence from the study of education,

psychology, and cognitive science, and neuroscience— affective science”. (p. 1)

The book is organized into two parts, Part I Foundations of Affective Science and Part II Affective Science in Action. In addition to presenting and explaining her theory of Affective Science and its potential to aid teachers in understanding the use of emotion to spark learning, Cavanagh presents ideas, plans, tactics and activities to energize classrooms.

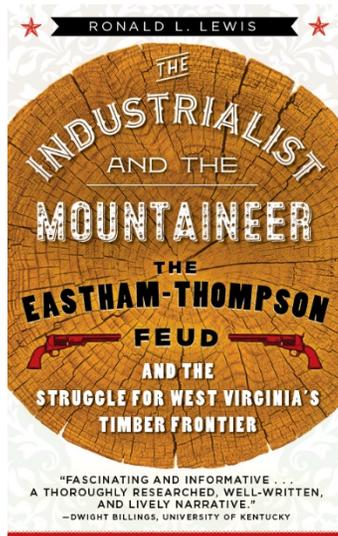
See a strong set of References, pages 217 to 233, and a useful Index, pages 233 to 241.

Recommended for public, school and college libraries for students, teachers, counselors and faculty.

Carol Walker Jordan.

University of North Carolina at Greensboro

The Industrialist and the Mountaineer: The Eastham-Thompson Feud and the Struggle for West Virginia’s Timber Frontier. Ronald L. Lewis. Morgantown: West Virginia University Press, 2017. ISBN 978-9-943665-51-8 (pbk.) \$26.99; 978-1-943665-50-1 (cloth) \$79.99; 978-1-943665-52-5 (epub) \$26.99; 978-1-943665-53-2 (pdf) \$32.99. 312 p.



Some say the Civil War was fought to free slaves and some say it was fought to force the South to become a mechanized economic power like the North. In this historical analysis of a time between 1880 and 1900, one can see struggles to preserve the ways of the past amid determinations to change the economic landscape in West Virginia. Ronald Lewis provides the reader with a rich and fully documented historical analysis of the Eastham-Thompson Feud in which the West Virginia frontiersman and the New England businessman fought and one died. They exhibited passionate feelings and opinions about beliefs, cultural values and economic aspirations—all related to the land, their work and their families.

The value of Lewis’ research and writing lies in the 1) historical analysis of the lives of Eastham and Thompson, 2) the context in which the feud erupted, and 3) the legal and personal shifts in cultural and civic institutions that impacted the aftermath of the feud.

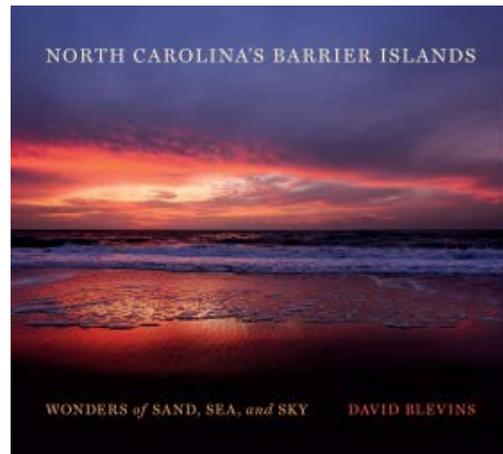
Lewis is a gifted research scholar and his text will be of great interest to students, faculty and other researchers within the fields of American history, Civil War history, family and genealogical studies. Recommended for archives and history centers and for college and university libraries.

There are many black and white photographs included, a Notes section (p. 255-285), a Bibliography (p. 285-295) and an Index (p. 297-301).

Carol Walker Jordan.

University of North Carolina at Greensboro

North Carolina’s Barrier Islands: Wonders of Sand, Sea, and Sky. David Blevins. Chapel Hill.: University of North Carolina Press, 2017. ISBN: 978-1-4696-3249-0 (cloth: alk. paper); 978-1-4696-3250-6 (ebook) 188 p. \$24.29.



The unrivalled work is a flawless study of Barrier Islands of North Carolina. The writing style is captivating and flows exceptionally. The author, David Blevins, a forest ecologist and a professional photographer, has a forest ecology doctorate degree from University of British Columbia. Exclusive photography workshops are offered by Mr. Blevins. Another book produced by Mr. Blevins and Michael Schafale is *Wild North Carolina Discovering the Wonders of Our State's Natural Communities*. David Blevins created the magnificent photographs from Boundary Bay, British Columbia in *A Nature Guide to Boundary Bay* and *Tracing Our Past: A Heritage Guide to Boundary Bay*.

Approximately one hundred sixty one majestic color photographs of the islands, the various bodies of water, and the firmament gloriously magnify the explanation of the